

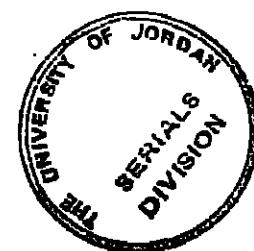
PLO says it mediates in Yemen

AMMAN (R) — A Palestinian official said on Friday Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was intensifying mediation in Yemen to prevent armed confrontation in a dispute threatening its unity. A crisis between the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the South until union in 1990, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his party, the General People's Congress (GPC), has plunged Yemen into its worst crisis since unification. It is over the have yet to merge. "The PLO's leadership is in constant touch with our Yemeni brothers and intensifying our mediation to see that the dispute is resolved according to the legal framework, constitutionally...and away from violence and confrontation," Abbas Zaki, a Central Committee member of the mainstream PLO movement, told Reuters Friday. Mr. Zaki, who accompanied Mr. Arafat's mediation visit to Yemen last Friday, said there were signs of a "progress in resolving the crisis between the disputing sides." He did not elaborate. He said the PLO's mediation was prompted by grave concern over the turn of events in the last two weeks.



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King congratulates Japanese emperor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Emperor Akihito of Japan congratulating him on the anniversary of his Accession to the Throne, and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Charles arrives in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, arrived here Friday on a two-day private visit during which he will meet with Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, the Royal Court announced. Prince Charles, who is an old friend of Their Majesties, is on a regional tour of the Middle East.

Prince Mohammad awards excelling shooters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein and president of the Jordan Shooting Federation, Friday presented cups to excelling shooters, who took part in the shooting championship. Prince Mohammad also presented the federation's trophy to the Jordan Clothing Company (JCC) for its contribution and support for the shooting championship, organised to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 58th birthday anniversary. Prince Mohammad presented the Royal Shooting Club's trophy to Nawras Ahmad Ousem, the longest serving staff member in the club. Taking part in the 10-day championship were 108 junior and senior shooters.

Juppe to tour Mideast

PARIS (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is to make a three-nation visit to the Middle East, taking in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, later this month, the foreign ministry said Friday. The visit, from Nov. 17 to 19, will enable Juppe to discuss "the situation and trends in the Middle East peace process," foreign ministry deputy spokesman Catherine Colonna said. It will be Mr. Juppe's first visit to the region.

PLO leaders discussed progress in talks

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership began a meeting here Friday to discuss problems in implementing the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. The session of the PLO Executive Committee, chaired by Yasser Arafat, was due to be followed by a meeting of Mr. Arafat's Fatah Revolutionary Council. The meeting of the 100-member Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the main PLO faction, is the first since the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord in Washington.

17 injured in Cairo prison riot

CAIRO (AFP) — Thirteen Islamic fundamentalists and four policemen were injured in a prison riot in the Mazraat Tora jail of Egyptian capital, police said Thursday. Scuffles broke out as prisoners used sharp objects to prevent guards from entering their cells during a search. An officer was among those injured in the fighting Wednesday. Three prisoners have been killed and around 100 people injured, including almost 60 policemen, in four jail riots since late August. The human rights organisation Amnesty International charged Thursday that the Egyptian government was allowing "the systematic and widespread use of torture" of Islamic militants.

Crown Prince calls on PLO to cooperate closer with Jordan

Many issues remain before peace treaty with Israel

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to cooperate better with Jordan.

"We are wasting time. We wish Palestinians would cooperate better," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying in an interview with the French daily Liberation which was published Friday.

Prince Hassan was quoted as saying that Jordan was helping train Palestinian police but was not involved in talks about their future role.

The Crown Prince reiterated earlier statements that it was still premature to talk about possible confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity.

"We are not going to discuss a confederation with the Gaza and Jericho before even defining what our customs tariffs will be, what part Jordan will take in administering the territories," Reuters quoted Prince Hassan as telling Liberation.

He said Jordan was focusing

on what effects the PLO-Israel agreement would have on the Kingdom and feared that peace, together with Western aid, would boost Israel's economic power and widen the gap with Arab countries.

"How could we consider investing in Israel unless there is a reciprocal movement? Arab countries could be suicidal if they lifted their boycott against Israel without getting anything in return," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying.

In an interview with the Paris-based Radio Orient Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein said many complicated issues need to be tackled before a peace treaty with Israel is signed.

Reaffirming Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, the King said "talk about final settlement is premature at this stage," adding that negotiations over the final settlement will begin "not in the so distant future."

King Hussein said that issues that need to be tackled include

the Jordanian lands occupied by Israel since 1967, which should be returned to Jordanian sovereignty, and water issues.

Asked about obstacles that still impede initial agreements over outstanding problems, the King said: "I do not believe that anything stands in the way provided we first deal with water issues and the problem of 300 square kilometres of Jordanian territories extending from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba occupied by Israel."

The King dismissed reports that he was arranging to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington next week.

"I believe that the Israeli premier will be in Washington on a scheduled visit and I will be here among members of the Jordanian family celebrating my birthday, which means I cannot be in two places at the same time," the King said.

Asked on reports of him meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the

King said: "The present circumstances do not allow for continued denial or non denial. There are contacts within the framework of the peace process with the purpose of achieving comprehensive and just peace in the area, and we are committed to realising that objective."

Prince Hassan on Wednesday expressed surprise about news that he had initiated an accord setting the stage for peace between Jordan and Israel.

"It is new to me, the signing and the meeting," Agency France Press quoted Prince Hassan as telling reporters.

Asked about reports that King Hussein and Mr. Peres met in Jordan last week, Prince Hassan said "there was no way to confirm or deny. The norm in the peace process is that meetings take place."

Asked on whether Jordan was about to sign a peace treaty with Israel, Prince Hassan was quoted as saying: "There is a lot of hard work to do. I told (U.S.) President Bill

Clinton and Minister Peres, the less focusing of the camera, the better."

The King told Radio Orient that the signing of peace treaty will take a long time, and serious efforts are needed to attain that goal.

In reply to a question about the progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Lebanese-Israeli track, the King said that Jordan will not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel as the Kingdom remains committed to a comprehensive settlement.

But he added that the Kingdom was going ahead with its negotiations with regards to the Israeli-Jordanian agenda and other complex issues that are still to be discussed and solved.

On Jerusalem and the holy places, the King said: "I hope that peace will finally come to Jerusalem where sovereignty should be only to God alone, and no other party."

"I hope that the city will remain symbol for meeting

(Continued on page 10)

Rabin says peace talks passed beyond point of no return

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday efforts to implement the peace accord had "passed a point of no return," and urged U.S. help in secret negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Mr. Rabin, speaking at a news conference with President Bill Clinton, said the PLO must condemn any violations of their accord signed in Washington Sept. 13.

Asked about a recent attack on Jewish settlers, Mr. Clinton also said that PLO leader Yasser Arafat was "duty-bound" to condemn the continuing violence.

"But I'm quite sure that we and the Palestinians have passed a point of no return in our efforts to implement the agreement," Mr. Rabin said.

He said: "We have found that direct and quiet contacts between Israel and its partners in efforts to achieve comprehensive peace (are the) best way to overcome prejudices of the past."

"The less exposed to lime-light of the media, the better

the chances to achieve agreements," he said, adding that Mr. Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher can "assist this particular mode of negotiations."

He said Israel was ready to continue talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Mr. Clinton urged Syria to speak out firmly in favour of peace in the Middle East and said nobody should undermine the Israel-PLO accord.

Leaders seeking peace must speak out clearly and strongly, said Mr. Clinton.

He was apparently referring to Syria, which has encouraged Palestinians opposing the Sept 13 Israel-PLO accord.

Mr. Clinton said opponents of the agreement must not be allowed to derail it.

He added that peace between Israel and Syria was vital if the accord was to succeed.

Asked if any progress on the Israel-Syria question had been made at Friday's meeting, Mr. Clinton said: "We discussed some specific things" that the United States "will be exploring during the next several

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Islamist, leftist and pan-Arab deputies likely to form 'vocal' parliamentary bloc

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to public belief, the non-Islamist, non-leftist bloc in Parliament is expected to form a vocal parliamentary group that both the government and the official opposition will have to reckon with, according to analysts.

Alliances based on internal issues are expected to be a new phenomenon in the 12th Parliament when it convenes sometime in the next three weeks. The ability of an estimated 30 deputies forming two "critical" blocs in — Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftists — in the Lower House to draw independent and tribal support will be a major factor in their ability to force the government to implement their programmes and policies, analysts and commentators say.

Initial predictions that the 12th Parliament will be dominated by traditional and centrist

politicians have materialised following the apparent decline in the number of both Islamist and leftist and pan-Arab political deputies. Together, the two groups comprise a "critical" bloc of around 30 deputies who are expected to be very vocal on issues pertaining to economic planning, public freedoms and the peace process.

"But the crux of the matter is that the non-bloc members, particularly the independents, may play a very important role. Depending on the issue, they may side with the leftists and the IAF," says a former high ranking official.

The bloc, says the former official, would include not only the 16 IAF deputies but independent Islamists, leftist and, in some instances, independent deputies as well. Some deputies who seek Cabinet posts but fail to secure them may become possible critics and opposition members to what-

ever government is in office.

"Most commentators assume that if someone is an 'independent' (he or she) cannot have a critical position regarding the peace process, economic planning or other issues — this is just not so," added the former official.

"There are at least 30 highly politicised deputies and they are likely to make the day a lively one in Parliament. No government should take this Parliament for granted. It should work hard to take Parliament's criticisms into consideration when formulating policies," cautioned the former official.

Iyad Kattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre and moderator of many public political debates, agrees with the former official: "The make-up of Parliament does not mean that there will be agreement with the government on all issues, especially internal issues will be hotly debated by

tribal chiefs and leftists alike."

Dr. Abia Ammawi, from the Amman-based French Centre for Contemporary Middle Eastern Study and Research, agrees with Mr. Kattan.

"People voted for their tribe, their clan, their kinsmen in most instances. But since on internal issues in particular there are so many different interests, chances are that these traditionalists will oppose the government on many policies if it did not address the different regional interests," said Dr. Ammawi.

"It may be that on foreign affairs they will vote in favour of the government line, but in return they will press for concessions on internal issues."

Not all commentators agree that strong bloc voting will be able to oppose or change government policies. "Critical voices in the Lower House have been reduced. Thanks to limitations on the election process and the change in the

Election Law, critical voices will be outvoted "every time," said IAF member Ziad Abu Ghanimah.

Mr. Abu Ghanimah, a former spokesman for the IAF, believes that the 12th Parliament is comprised of "docile, yes men" who will allow any government to pass its policies with ease. "There will be a maximum of 30 votes of opposition and that is not enough to vote down any government policy or programmes," Mr. Abu Ghanimah told the Jordan Times.

But Mr. Abu Ghanimah was not the only person who felt that the voices of opposition in Parliament would now be minimised. "The new Parliament is comprised of mostly yes men and it will be their day," said a spokesman for the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPP), which along with the Jordan People's

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Libya rejects new U.N. sanctions

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya denounced new U.N. sanctions for its refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie but said on Friday it was still urging them to stand trial in Scotland.

"While expressing its displeasure and deep regret (the foreign ministry) reaffirms on the other hand the serious and sincere will of Libya to reach a solution to this artificial crisis as soon as possible," the ministry said in a statement carried by the Libyan News Agency JANA.

It reaffirmed its offer to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on Sept. 29 that Libya did not oppose the two suspects standing trial in Scotland and "was ready to urge them to do so."

But it set no date for the two men to submit themselves, saying procedures still had to be agreed on.

The foreign ministry denounced the U.N. Security Council Resolution adopted Thursday, saying it was only aimed at harming the Libyan

people and the official JANA news agency said it was a decision by "imperialist" Western nations that ran counter to world opinion.

The ministry statement and JANA's report pictured the resolution as unjust and did not even mention the possibility of surrendering for trial in the United States or Britain the two men wanted in the 1988 bombing that led to 270 deaths.

The ministry expressed Libya's "deep sorrow that the council has fallen again under the pressure and practices of the United States, Britain and France."

The three countries have adopted a "policy of force, warnings and threats... to create the biggest damage possible to the Libyan Arab people," said the statement, carried by JANA.

The Security Council Resolution, effective Dec. 1 unless Libya complies, would freeze Libyan assets abroad and ban the sale of some oil

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Polls results in Third District reflective of more than just change in political mood

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The victory of Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Ibrahim Keilani, and subsequently the loss of liberal contender Faris Nabulsi in the Third District, during Monday's Parliamentary elections is not, at first glance, an indication of change in the political mood in Amman's most affluent and politicised area.

This is so, according to analysts, because it was a case of an Islamist, Dr. Keilani, replacing another Islamist, Laith Shbeilat, who did not enter the 1993 election race. Both second and third Muslim seat winners are considered liberal candidates on the social agenda. The Christian seat was retained by a pan-Arab leftist and the Circassian seat was also filled by a leftist, although both were won by new faces. These results appear to fall in line with the same formula of the 1989 elections.

The real change, however, is that whereas Mr. Nabulsi clearly represented a Jordanian-Palestinian agenda, Mr. Abu Ragheb, who replaced

him, is considered to be purely focussed on the Jordanian agenda.

Although at least Messrs. Taher Masri and Ali Abu Ragheb, who succeeded in last Monday's elections, are well accepted as progressive liberals who want to see democracy move forward, the majority of their voters elected them because of their "clear identity" along the Jordanian-Palestinian divide and not because of any difference in their progressive and secular outlooks.

The high number of votes that Mr. Keilani — minus the percentage that the IAF moved to this district from other front enclaves — clearly indicated that the Islamists in the district voted in favour of an Islamic face because they wanted to consolidate a success for the Islamists in this predominantly open constituency.

This argument is substantiated by the fact that Mr. Nabulsi, who ran on a progressive leftist ticket which watered down the Palestinian-Jordanian divide, did not win despite calls from Islamist renegade politician Mr. Shbeilat to back him.

The fact that Mr. Nabulsi appeared to represent several political — and contradicting — ideals, ranging from being a liberal on the social agenda, to a perceived rejectionist on the peace process and calling for a socialist economic programme in a free market electoral district, confused voters and contributed to his loss.

Logistical considerations aside, Mr. Nabulsi, according to analysts, failed to come up with a very clear portrayal of one identity at a time when the mood of the voters was to make statements of identity rather than a statement of ideals.

Prior to the Nov. 8 election day, predictions placed the three winners and Mr. Nabulsi on almost equal footing since most analysts expected that the Islamists, who felt allegiance to Mr. Shbeilat, would heed his call and support Mr. Nabulsi. Where this analysis failed is that Mr. Nabulsi had originally attracted the votes of the Christians and liberals who wanted to repay him for his stand against segregation of schools but were sent scurrying when a full page newspaper advertisement equat-

ing him with an Islamist like Mr. Shbeilat was published as part of a campaign by "the friends of Mr. Nabulsi." And just like the liberals and Christians opted for someone who would, without ambiguity, stand for and defend their social agenda, the Islamists in the district were not going to vote for a liberal just because he had secured the support of an Islamist.

The high number of votes that Mr. Keilani secured in these elections, most observers believe, strongly indicated that the Islamists were less concerned with the human rights and democracy issues, which Mr. Shbeilat had propagated during his four-year tenure as deputy in the 11th parliament, and cast their votes to the only Islamist face they knew.

Analysts believe the IAF argument that the Islamists were being targeted was the IAF support of conservative voters who did not necessarily support the Front.

But it was not all Islamist support in the Third District that gave Mr. Keilani the highest number of votes in this affluent district. It was evident, campaign managers

and observers say, that the over 9,000 votes that Mr. Keilani got in this race could not have all come from this district since the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in 1989 had a base support vote of around 5,000 votes only. Coupled with the fact that preliminary calculations indicated that the Islamists did not increase their strength but maintained a steady support among their constituents, the increase in their votes in the Third District, most observers maintain, could only have come from moving votes into this district from other districts.

Logistics, therefore, became too powerful an instrument, and only Messrs. Masri and Abu Ragheb could get anywhere near the well organised Islamists in ensuring that logistical support was on their side. It is estimated by some observers that the two candidates may have transferred 4,000 votes, between them, into their constituencies during the campaign.

IAF sources concede that they needed to get their foot in the door by winning in this district, which is usually considered the ultimate litmus

test for candidates running on political, rather than clanish or strictly provincial, platforms.

However, despite their majority win in this district, the Islamists had to contend with two other formidable forces which equally needed to prove their presence on the Jordanian political map, i.e. East Jordanian identity and the identity of Jordanians with origins in Palestine.

After the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel without prior consultation with Jordan, many Jordanians felt that it was time they reasserted their separate political identity and left Palestinian politics to the Palestinians.

The foremost method to prove their separateness was to elect those who followed "clear East Jordanian politics" to the Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Abu Al Ragheb appeared to fit the ticket and his support base in the Third District was, in its majority, clearly East Jordanian.

Since Mr. Abu Ragheb received about 5,000 votes in

1989, at a time when most voters felt little need to stress their separate identity, the jump to over 8,000 votes in 1993 indicates a definite swing in the votes of support from the Jordanian elite in the Third District.

The need to underline this very clear-cut East Jordanian identity hurt Mr. Nabulsi, who is also East Jordanian by definition but carried political ideals of his father, former prime minister Sulaiman Nabulsi, which supported the Palestinian struggle and did not stress separateness.

In fact, Mr. Nabulsi did not only lose among East Bank Jordanians but also among Palestinians, some of whom, basically the moderates, did not agree with some of his slogans, like "no normalisation with the enemy."

Since Mr. Masri, a former prime minister who was born in Nabulus, was also in the race for one of this district's three seats, Mr. Nabulsi could not win the moderate "Palestinian vote," which also wanted to stress its presence on the political map and with a weight equal to

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Quick progress needed on Palestinian-Israeli track

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Attaining quick progress on improving the situation on the ground for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza is integral to the success of the peace process. State Department and World Bank officials agree.

Dr. Thomas Miller, director of the Office of Israeli and Arab-Israeli Affairs at the State Department, and Caio Koch-Weser, vice president for the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank, reviewed what steps are necessary to ensure success in the peace process during a panel discussion Nov. 10 sponsored by the Middle East Policy Council.

"There is a clock ticking most definitely on the Palestinian track. I think there is a great sensitivity on both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides as to how quickly this clock is ticking," Mr. Miller said.

"I know the sides are deeply, energetically engaged in trying to come to closure..." he said.

Mr. Koch-Weser stressed that "without quick and tangible economic, social benefits reaching the Palestinian people there will be no lasting peace."

Reporting on progress thus far, Mr. Koch-Weser said the Palestinians presented an outline for an implementation and coordinating agency during a donors' ad hoc liaison committee meeting in Paris last week. The donors also discussed how to organize their assistance efforts, he reported.

A next step will be the first consultative meeting of the donors, which will take place Dec. 16 in Paris. During this meeting, the World Bank hopes to present an emergency assistance programme for the near term, studies for the medium term development efforts, and a technical assistance programme for comprehensive institution building, he said.

"I am confident, if we all work closely and with great

effort, that by the time elections will be held next year in July (in Gaza and Jericho), one can indeed point to tangible progress on the ground" for the Palestinians, Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Assistance efforts, he said, will be divided into three phases: An emergency relief and works programme; an emergency assistance programme directed at improving infrastructure; and meeting medium- and long-term investment needs.

On Palestinian efforts, Mr. Koch-Weser said he is encouraged by "how good the local municipality administrations in the West Bank are and how efficient some of the local power systems and school system run."

There is implementation capacity at the grassroots level," he said. However, the donor community is concerned "that the necessary implementation institutions will not be in place in time for this massive effort to succeed."

"We are concerned that there has not been sufficient progress in creating the umbrella organisation... that would develop policy options, coordinate aid at the receiving end, (and) would manage and monitor the implementation of projects," he said.

"We have expressed our concern to the Palestinian delegation. I know that many of the bilateral partners... will pursue this vigorously," he added.

Mr. Koch-Weser underscored Jordan's role in future discussions on trade relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He noted that Jordan has asked the World Bank to investigate how developments in the peace process will affect the Jordanian economy. This study, he said, should lead to a "strong response from the donor community" vis-a-vis Jordan's economic development.

Commenting on this issue, Mr. Miller said "there is

tremendous sensitivity in the U.S. government... in making sure that Jordan is fully involved in the economic development plans throughout the region."

Reviewing the status of the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations, Mr. Miller said "I am confident that the two sides can come to closure in the not-too-distant future."

Turning to the other tracks, Mr. Miller said, "I wish I could report the same degree of success in the Syrian and Lebanese track. Unfortunately I cannot."

"You still have a basic gap between the Israeli and Syrian sides over questions of land, security and peace," he said.

Asked whether the United States would provide security guarantees on the Golan Heights if Israel and Syria were to reach an agreement, Mr. Miller responded, "I would say that we are a full partner in this process. We will do what is necessary, obviously within our constitutional requirements and in close consultation with the Hill (Congress)."

Commenting on a question regarding Syria's commitment to the peace process, Mr. Miller said, "There is no question in our mind on President Assad's commitment to peace... On the same token, it does trouble us that Syria continues to play host to a number of the rejectionist groups."

On Israel's negotiations with Lebanon, Mr. Miller said he disagrees with those who contend that the Lebanese track is wholly dependent on the Syrian track.

There are "very significant aspects of the Lebanese track which should be viewed independently," he said. Israel's negotiations with Lebanon focus on security questions and the withdrawal of foreign forces, not on territory, he noted.

"I am confident that with time that track as well can come to closure," he concluded.

15 Turkish militants sentenced to death

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Turkish military court sentenced 15 Kurdish separatist militants to death and 14 to life imprisonment, a court source said Friday.

The court, in the southeastern capital city of Diyarbakir, passed verdict on 145 people Thursday after a trial that began in 1981. Only 23 defendants held in prison were in court for the verdict, with all others at large, the source said.

Turkish Television reported that the court of passed prison terms of 20 to 24 years on five minors convicted of belonging to a guerrilla organisation and of murder, attempted murder, raids on villages, and robberies.

Thirteen members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were jailed for 10 to 18 years for helping in robberies, threats, and murders.

Twenty-eight PKK members not charged with any other offence were jailed for five to 10 years, and another eight received shorter sentences of one to five years because of their youth, the television said.

About 700 alleged separatists were originally charged in the case, known as the "main PKK trial" to distinguish it from numerous others PKK guerrillas.

All were charged with starting and masterminding the banned Marxist PKK, known to have been formed between 1979 and 1980.

In 1984, the group began an armed struggle for a separate Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey. More than 10,000 people have been killed in the insurgency since then.

Over the years, the court has had to retry the case twice after a higher court overturned some of the sentences and approved others. Consequently the original number of defendants was reduced to 145.

Turkish penal code still carries the death penalty but no judicial execution has been carried out for the last 10 years. Military courts apply the penal code in trials of civilians.

The case is one of the rare trials dragging on since martial law was in effect for three years after a 1980 coup.

While other military tribunals then set up under martial law have long been disbanded, the Diyarbakir court has been left to pursue the PKK case to its end.

The court source said the defendants were likely to appeal.

Parliament deputies from Turkey's mainly-Kurdish southeast have appealed to the government and separatist rebels to end bloodshed.

"We, deputies of the region, urge the PKK to end its violence and armed action in the region as well as the government to avoid violence and suppression against democratic and liberal demands," 26 deputies said in a joint statement.

They are from the True Path Party and Social Democrat Populist Party of the ruling coalition, and opposition's Motherland Party, Social Democrat Republican Peoples Party and the fundamentalist Welfare Party.

Their appeal was against an increasingly relentless fight between government forces and the PKK.

The group did not include the 17 Kurdish nationalist deputies of the Democracy Party (DEP), which has antagonised much of the Turkish public because its members have publicly justified PKK attacks and refused to condemn violence.

Fighting on Tajik border; Afghan general returned

DUSHANBE (Agencies) — Guerrillas in Afghanistan launched overnight attacks on Tajikistan's frontier, while rebels inside the former Soviet republic shelled border troops, a military spokesman said on Friday.

In a separate development, Tajik authorities assisted with the repatriation of an Afghan general who fled into Tajikistan early this week after a battle between rival warlords, a Tajik government spokesman said.

The military spokesman said that no Russian or other troops from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had been killed in the overnight attacks and he had no details on possible guerrilla casualties.

Three border posts manned by CIS troops drew heavy machinegun fire from Afghanistan, the spokesman said. The posts face Afghan territory captured this week by forces believed to be particularly hostile to the presence of Russian troops on Tajikistan's border.

On a different section of the rugged frontier, guerrillas operating inside Tajikistan rained 14 artillery shells towards another border guard post but all shells sailed wide of their target, the spokesman said.

"The guerrilla group was destroyed," he added but could not give any details of casualties.

Tajikistan, helped by 25,000 troops from Russia and other CIS countries, has fought a border conflict since early this year against Islamic Tajik rebels and their Afghan Mujahadeen allies.

The Tajik rebels fled into Afghanistan after losing a civil war against ex-communist forces in Tajikistan late last year. Thousands died in that war and thousands of Tajik refugees remain in northern Afghanistan.

Foreign diplomats estimate

that about 5,000 Tajik rebels are under arms in northern Afghanistan. Some Afghan warlords support them but others are cooler toward them.

Amir Chogai, who this week captured the garrison town of Shirhanbada previously held by warlord Rashid Dostum, is widely seen as sympathetic to the rebel cause whereas General Dostum is not.

A Tajik government spokesman said that one of Gen. Dostum's top generals, who fled from Shirhanbada into Tajik territory, has been returned to Afghanistan.

The spokesman said General Begi's repatriation was a gesture of goodwill aimed at speeding up the return of about 95 Afghans who crossed into Tajik territory with him.

Itar-Tass quoted a spokesman for Russian border guards, Vladimir Maslitskiy, as saying Tajik authorities handed over Gen. Begi at a meeting with Afghan military officials near the town of Termez in Uzbekistan.

Gen. Begi crossed over the River Pyanzh from Afghanistan on Nov. 6 along with a group of soldiers under a white flag and requested asylum as fighting raged in Afghanistan between rival Mujahadeen clans.

Rabbani to visit Egypt

Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani is to visit Cairo Monday for talks on signing an extradition treaty to send back Egyptian Islamic militants wanted by Egypt, officials in Cairo said Friday.

President Hosni Mubarak is expected to stress that Cairo wants Kabul to ban Egyptian extremists from Afghanistan.

The two leaders will review Cairo's request for a treaty under which convicted Islamic militants would be extradited to Egypt, the officials said.

They said Kabul insisted it could not extradite Egyptians living in Afghanistan unless the two sides agreed on a treaty.

Pentagon accepts Czech report of chemicals in Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Wednesday the Pentagon accepts Czech reports that low levels of chemical agents were detected during the Gulf war. But he said there was no evidence that the chemicals were responsible for illnesses reported by U.S. veterans.

Mr. Aspin told reporters there is no evidence either that the Iraqis or the allies used chemical weapons during the conflict.

The Czechs, who were part of the allied coalition, said the chemicals probably resulted from allied bombardment of Iraqi chemical weapons installations.

Mr. Aspin disputed that, saying weather reports show winds were blowing away from troops, thereby calling any potential contamination into question.

"What we have here is another mystery," Mr. Aspin said. "If the detections were valid, we don't know where the agent came from."

Pentagon investigators are accepting Czech reports of chemical traces as valid, even though they could not independently confirm the reports, the secretary said.

However, "a connection to ailments that afflicted our veterans proves elusive," he added.

Among the 500,000 Americans who saw service in the Gulf, thousands have complained of undiagnosed symptoms that have come to be

known as "Persian Gulf syndrome." Smoke fumes, pesticides and radiation from depleted uranium used in munitions have been among the suspected causes.

The secretary said, however, that the Pentagon takes veterans' health complaints "very, very seriously," and ordered a panel of experts to search anew for reasons for their ailments.

Attempting to counter accusations from some of the veterans that the Pentagon has been hiding information about the issue, Mr. Aspin said, "We're putting out every piece of information we have."

On Capitol Hill, Representative Roy Rowland, said the Pentagon officials told members in a closed-door briefing "they could not scientifically relate any of the problems military personnel have now to exposure to mustard gas or nerve gas."

"They don't know what caused the problems the veterans are experiencing," Mr. Rowland said.

The latest Pentagon report deals specifically with the Czech report and does not cover the wide-ranging complaints being made by numerous Gulf war veterans about the possibility of exposure to chemical warfare.

Those veterans, some of whom are fighting for their lives against cancer, say it was Iraqi chemicals, and not a sonic boom, that shattered the northern Saudi Arabian night sky on Jan. 20, 1991.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli left plunges in polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The left-wing coalition led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has taken a dramatic tumble in opinion polls published Friday. The right-wing bloc would take 60 of the 120 seats in parliament, seven more than it holds today, according to a survey by the Dahaf Institute for the Yediot Aharonot newspaper. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party would lose four of its 44 seats while the right-wing Likud would gain five to hold 37 seats. The left-wing Meretz would drop from 12 seats to 10, while the far-right Tsomet would add four seats to have 12 MPs. In September, after the Palestinian autonomy deal was signed, Dahaf found Labour was steady with 44 seats and Likud credited with 33. However, if elections were held for the premiership, as they will be for the first time in the next general election scheduled for 1996, Mr. Rabin would defeat Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Rabin mustered 39 per cent support compared with 27 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu and 21 per cent for Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan in the telephone survey of 537 Israelis this week.

Zimbabwe establishes ties with Israel

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe said Friday it had decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, ending years of bitter opposition to the existence of the Jewish state. Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said his government was "satisfied" that Israel now respected the rights of Palestinians and wanted to live in peace with its Arab neighbours.

Lebanese bird hunter killed by mine

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — A Lebanese hunter was killed when he stepped on a landmine planted by Israeli forces in South Lebanon, security sources said Friday. Saeed Mansour, 35, wandered into the mine field while hunting birds on Thursday in Wadi Al Siouqi area where the Israelis had placed the mines to stop guerrilla infiltrations into a "security zone" they occupy in South Lebanon. Last week a Lebanese farmer and his daughter were killed in an explosion on their land bordering the zone.

Cypriot official to visit Israel

NICOSIA (AFP) — Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides will Tuesday become the first Cypriot minister to visit Israel since the island's independence in 1960. The Foreign Ministry told AFP on Friday that Mr. Michaelides was to hold talks during his three-day visit on Nicosia's decision to appoint an ambassador to Tel Aviv. "There has been a vacuum" in relations between the two eastern Mediterranean countries, the minister told reporters on his return from a visit to Syria on Wednesday. "This vacuum has to be filled," he said, adding that Cyprus sought good relations with all countries of the region. Nicosia, a strong backer of the Palestinian cause, decided to open an embassy in Tel Aviv after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their autonomy deal in September. Cyprus and Israel established diplomatic relations in 1961, a year after independence from Britain, and have since built close links in commerce, tourism and telecommunications.

King Hassan names new foreign secretary

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has appointed Tayeb Fassi-Fihri as secretary of state or junior minister for foreign affairs and cooperation in a new non-party government, an official source said on Friday. Mr. Fassi-Fihri replaces Ahmad Cherkaoui, 64, who served as secretary of state for 19 years. He will assist Abdul Latif Filali, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation in the new government led by Prime Minister Mohammad Karim Lamrani and sworn in on Thursday.

British development minister to visit Egypt

LONDON (AP) — Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker will visit Egypt from Nov. 12-15 for talks about British aid, the government said Thursday. Ms. Chalker will meet government officials and visit the Cairo wastewater project and an Egyptian banking institute training programme. Both projects are funded by Britain. British aid to Egypt in the 1991-92 fiscal year was £12.4 million (\$18.9 million), the government said.

Bouez to visit London in December

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez will travel to London on Dec. 3 for a three-day visit at the invitation of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Foreign Ministry sources said Mr. Bouez will discuss with British officials the Middle East peace process and bolstering bilateral ties, namely ways of attracting British investment to Lebanon. Lebanon is seeking foreign investments to implement an ambitious 10-year reconstruction plan aimed at getting the country back on its feet. It will be Mr. Bouez's first official visit to Britain although last month the Lebanese foreign minister met Mr. Hurd on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Mr. Hurd made a landmark visit to Syria last month to discuss the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks. Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are also deadlocked.

Five Palestinians escape from jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Five Palestinians broke out of an Israeli army prison south of Hebron in the occupied West Bank overnight, military officials said Friday. Guards only realised the five remain prisoners had gone from Daharia prison, which has 400 inmates, during the morning roll call. An inquiry was launched into how they escaped, but the officials would not say what charges the five were facing.

Kurtzer: Israel-PLO accord disproves need for third party

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The secret talks in Norway that produced the Israel-PLO accord may well have discredited the "truism" that Middle Eastern negotiations require a third party, says a top State Department official.

A "critical lesson" for Arabs and Israelis is that it is possible for them to negotiate face-to-face "without a third party" and "without a crutch," Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, said Tuesday.

He was speaking to the Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, which held a four-day national interfaith convocation "to celebrate and build peace in the Middle East," according to organisers.

In addition to addressing the factors that led to the breakthrough, Mr. Kurtzer outlined the challenges that face Israeli and Palestinian leaders as they implement what he called "the complicated, complex — and in some ways highly ambiguous — declaration of principles" signed on September 13 at the White House.

Among the most formidable are the "severely inflated expectations" on both sides, and the need for Israelis and Palestinians to begin taking

concrete steps towards implementation of the accord, Mr. Kurtzer said. The "implementation gap" has been particularly acute on the Palestinian side, which was initially slow in coming to grips with the need to create "credible, transparent" institutions to receive the aid already pledged by the international community, he added.

Another challenge mentioned by Mr. Kurtzer involves "the credibility of commitments" made by Israelis and Palestinians, including the PLO's promise to control Palestinian terrorism and Israel's pledge of troop withdrawals and transfer of authority. Even as both sides try to demonstrate their credibility on those and other matters, they will face harsh criticism from their own domestic constituencies — as well as from one another, he warned.

Mr. Kurtzer also reiterated the importance of having the rest of the Arab world rise to the challenge implicit in the Israel-PLO accord. "Comprehensiveness is critical" to the peace process, he said.

He singled out the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations as having made "lots of progress" since mid-September, while the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-

Lebanese talks have been far less productive. But the need for breakthroughs on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks "is no less urgent," Mr. Kurtzer said, adding that the United States is working to stimulate movement in both.

Overall, the United States will be pursuing three broad goals, Mr. Kurtzer said: to continue to support the peace process until progress becomes truly comprehensive; to promote some "very narrow" business and commercial opportunities for Americans in the Middle East; and to promote the human contacts that can begin to bridge the misunderstandings lying at the root of the Middle East conflict.

During the question-and-answer period, Mr. Kurtzer told the audience that the Clinton administration is talking to Congress about extending the congressional waiver that temporarily lifted the ban on official U.S. dealings with the PLO. Mr. Kurtzer said he was "relatively optimistic" that the extension would be granted before the current waiver expires on January 1.

"All of us," he added, "would like to see full legislation at some point that does away with the restrictions" on the PLO.

He said the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations as having made "lots of progress" since mid-September, while the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Pif Et Hecrak
17:40	L'Ecole Des Fais
18:30	Beaumanboir
19:00	News in French
19:15	Uhuuua
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Panelli Boys
21:00	Da Best's On
21:30	Perspective
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature Film: "The Jigaw Nis"
PRAYER TIMES	
4:38	Fajr
12:57	(Sunrise) Duha
11:20	Dhuhr
14:17	Asr
16:42	Maghreb
18:02	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch. Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church. Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 61757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622466	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625258	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624558	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 614195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623024, 654032	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be cold and partly cloudy with gradually decreased chances of rain; and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 6 / 13	
Aqaba 13 / 22	
Dera'a 6 / 16	
Jordan Valley 12 / 23	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14.5, Aqaba 24. Humidity reading: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Hindi	898787
Dr. Rabi Zaidoun	388685
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	827195
Dr. Bassam Karadabeh	759200
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordous pharmacy	728336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Al Sahm pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	648945
Shmouati pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBRD:	
Dr. Masan Sharara	248056
Al Quds Pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ahmad Al Turaifi	900806
Khalifeh pharmacy	765417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642412/6
Akhleh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahdi, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmouati	664171/3
Shmouati Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushter Hospital	697277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Basir, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafiah	77111/26
Arzy, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hilwa Maden Hospital	(09)959990
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Al-Basir, Abdali	664164/6
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIV

Profiles of newly-elected members of Parliament

MMAN (J.T.) — Following is the continuation of brief profiles of newly-elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament made available to the Jordan Times.

Denotes freshman members.

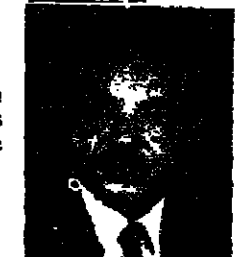
I Shatti (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Deir Alaa, he obtained his B.A. and received a post graduate diploma from Yarmouk University. He was director of Alaa Finance Department.



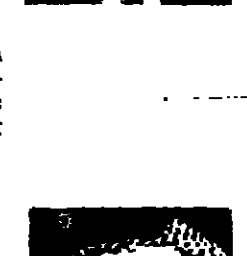
Shihadeh (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Hebron in 1951, he worked as a cher in refugee camps until 1982. He has a degree and served as a member of the Iqine National Council.



Beh Hararshah (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Musheirfeh in 1954, he obtained a B.A. in economics and business administration from the University of Jordan 1979. He is a member of a Jerash development committee.



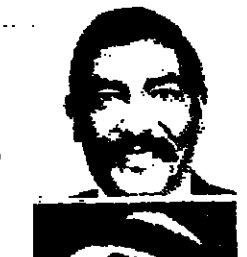
Salameh (IAF)*
Iqa District

rn in Reimoun, Jerash, in 1949, he graduated with a degree in Islamic law from University of Jordan. He is currently studying his M.A. studies in Islamic judiciary. He is the president of the IAF branch in Iqa and a member of its Shoura Council. He was the Awqaf Department director in Iqa and Jerash and recently the assistant general director for King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque.



Hameed Howeimeel (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Ghor Al Mazraa in 1956, he earned a law degree from Beirut Arab University.



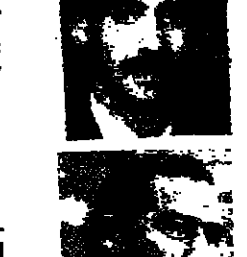
Eshoush (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Ghor al Safi in 1949, he holds a ijhi certificate.



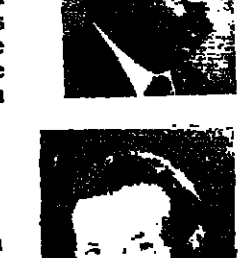
Ghazawi (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Mashare near Irbid in 1947, he earned a law degree from Cairo University 1969. He served as assistant governor of mtha district and administrator at the me Ministry and worked for the Ministry Education.



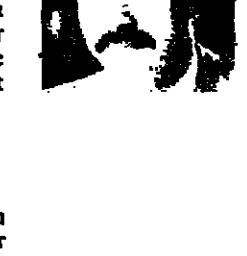
Thubairat (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Shouna Shamalia in 1942, he received his secondary education in Irbid and earned a B.A. in history from Damascus University in 1963. He worked for the Ministry of Education from 1964-1970, he was elected mayor of Shouna Shamalia from 1970-1988.



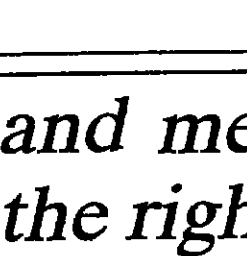
Kreishan (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Ma'an in 1947. He graduated with a B.A. in accounting and management from Irbid Arab University. He worked for the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. He was twice elected as the president of Beirut Arab University.



Al Bahabbah (Independent)*
Iqa District

rn in Shobak in 1944, he obtained a B.A. in Arabic language. He worked for programming at Jordan Television.



Bader Al Riyati (IAF)*
Ma'an District

Born in Beir Al Sabee in 1947, he studied at Aqaba schools and graduated from Damascus University with an accounting degree in 1972. He worked at the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Purchases Department. He was a mosque preacher in Aqaba since 1973.

Nawaf Al Qadi (Independent)*
Northern Bedouins

Born in Hosa district in 1923, he served in the Jordanian Armed Forces since 1951 and left the service in 1959. In 1963 he served with the Public Security Department in Hebron. He became director of police departments in Nablus, Ma'an, Salt and Karak. In 1975, he served as assistant to the Public Security Department director. He retired as a brigadier. He was a member of the Senate.

Fawaz Al Zoubi (Independent)*
Ramtha District

Born in Ramtha in 1956, he finished school in Ramtha and has worked in business. He was elected mayor of Ramtha twice and is a member of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development.



Rateb Al Saoud (Independent)*
Tafilah District

Born in Tafilah in 1955, he obtained a B.A. from the University of Jordan, and an M.A. and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. His field of study was education. He worked as a teacher for seven years for the Ministry of Education then at Mu'ta University.



Mohammad Njadat (Independent)*
Southern Bedouins

Born in Aqaba in 1939, he served in the Armed Forces, and holds an M.S. in military sciences. He retired at the rank of major-general and worked at the office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Fayad Jarrar (Independent)*
Zarqa District

Born in Jenin in 1944, he finished his schooling and served in several posts. He was a member of the 10th Lower House of Parliament.



Anwar Hadid (Independent)*
Fourth District

Born in Amman in 1940, he finished his schooling in the capital and in Beirut he worked for the ministry of municipal and rural affairs. He was elected mayor of Quesimeh and Jweideh towns in the early 1980s.



Khaled Ajarmeh (Independent)*
Fifth District

Born in Madaba 1933 he obtained a B.A. in military science and worked for the Armed Forces and reached the rank of major general before retiring. He was a member of the National Consultative Council.



Abed Maza Al Nahar (Independent)*
Fifth District

Born in Wadi Al Seer in 1933, he obtained his diploma in civil engineering from Belgrade University in 1962. He worked for the Ministry of Public Works. He also worked in Saudi Arabia in the private sector. He has written several articles which were published in local newspapers and magazines.



Thaeb Abdullah Khatib (Independent)*
First District, Amman

Born in Amman in 1948, he finished his secondary school in 1966, obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Cairo University and served at the Royal Medical Services. He obtained a diploma in paediatrics from Great Britain in 1985 and has been in private practice in Hashmi Shamali.



Jordan to mark King's birthday with various celebrations, events

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday will celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's 58 birthday with various public and private sector celebrations around the country.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the festivities coincide with ceremonies marking the success of the parliamentary elections and the country's continued march towards democracy under the King Hussein's reign.

The University of Jordan Thursday held graduation ceremonies for students who had completed seven training courses in technical consultancy services, in the course of celebrations of the King's birthday.

University Vice President Saleman Arabiyat awarded diplomas to the 175 graduates and delivered an address outlining Jordan's achievements under King Hussein.

On Sunday, a major procession will be organised by the private and public sectors in Karak and several other ceremonies will be held throughout

the governorate to mark the occasion.

Yarmouk University announced several celebrations to be held on Sunday including art exhibitions and sports events.

The Jordan University for Women announced plans for its own activities and ceremonies to be held between Nov. 13 and Nov. 17. These include exhibitions, seminars and lectures.

The Jerash Department of Education has also organised ceremonies and social activities on the anniversary.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein opened an exhibition of Jordanian stamps Thursday at the Orthodox Club in Amman. The exhibition, organised on the eve of the King's birthday, displayed a large collection of stamps depicting various national occasions. The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs.



Abu Nowar stresses no separate peace deal

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will not strike a separate peace deal with Israel and will continue to strive for a comprehensive and just peace, said Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar.

Speaking at a meeting Thursday with heads and representatives of Arab news

agencies who covered the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections, the minister said Jordan will never abandon its sister countries. The Jordanian leadership has always been keen on supporting pan-Arab causes and has always exercised a national role reflecting the country's firm stands based on the ideas

of the Great Arab Revolt.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the Arab news agencies can and ought to play a leading role in supporting collective Arab action and deepening public awareness of the Arab World with regard to its causes and towards bridging the gap be-

tween the region's countries.

With reference to the elections, he said the government worked diligently to guarantee fair and free elections which were held in a very positive atmosphere enabling Jordanian citizens to exercise their constitutional rights.

2,000 Irbid citizens stage march in protest of Nov. 8 election results

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 2,000 people from Irbid Thursday organised a peaceful march to protest results of the parliamentary elections in Irbid District, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday.

Marchers, who were led by candidates who lost on Nov. 8, chanted slogans contesting results of the elections and called for holding the officials supervising the elections responsible for what they maintained were inaccurate results.

Before the marchers broke up, Hassan Al Taj, a candidate for the 1993 elections and Hosni Al Shuyab, a former deputy, addressed them. They hailed their "disciplined" protest, saying that it

enhances democracy at a time when others are attempting to undermine it.

Dr. Shuyab said: "If they were able to fabricate results of the elections, they would not be able to fabricate your genuine will and convictions."

Some candidates met with Irbid Governor Fayed Al Abbadi and briefed him on the reasons that led them to contest results of the elections.

Mr. Abbadi stressed the integrity of the elections and informed the candidates that the Interior minister is ready to listen to their observations and comments.

He voiced the government's readiness to provide any information of figures to

any candidate who requests it.

A total of 30 candidates had earlier met at Al Tal family diwan in Irbid to discuss results of the elections. They drafted a statement contesting the outcome of the vote.

The statement reaffirmed the candidates' allegiance to His Majesty King Hussein and their confidence in his fairness, wisdom and integrity. It cited some of the reasons that made them suspicious of the election results.

They also cited what they saw as conflicting numbers of voters and the order in which names of winners were announced. Saying there

were different numbers and different orders.

In addition, the interior minister's answer to a question about the delay in announcing results of the Irbid elections, as one of the reasons behind this contesting of result.

They said the minister attributed the delay to a request by some candidates to redo the vote count.

In this respect, the statement noted, none of the candidates had made such a request.

Candidates agreed to send a cable to King Hussein, explaining their position and why they were contesting the results of the Nov. 8 elections.

UNIDO, ESCWA to hold expert meeting on automation, microprocessor controls

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will hold a meeting on automation and microprocessor controls in the region from Nov. 15 to 17 in Amman.

Hosted by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of the University of Jordan,

the meeting will deliberate on the diffusion and operation of electronics instrumentation and microprocessor controls in the Arab countries.

ESCWA and UNIDO, along with the delegates of Arab countries, will discuss ways and means of enhancing the technical capabilities in the Arab countries to install, operate and maintain the latest automation instrumentations and microprocessor controls.

Participants will also study the necessity and feasibility of establishing regional instrumentation service centre in one of the countries.

They will introduce reports on the domestic level of industrial automation and micro-

processor applications. The reports will assess the design, development, manufacture, repair and maintenance of microprocessor-based equipment and instrumentation.

Experts will submit reports on the future projects and cooperation opportunities in the Arab countries.

A joint ESCWA/UNIDO meeting in 1985 called on both U.N. agencies to assist the countries of the region in establishing a regional centre for design, training and maintenance of microprocessor-based controls, systems and instrumentations.

The Syrian government recently expressed serious interest to host and support the

establishment of a regional centre in order to rationalise the diffusion of microprocessor-based applications and to harmonise their selection, operation and maintenance in the region, including the possibility of preparing standards/harmonised guidelines and specifications.

The regional centre would aim at building up the technical capabilities in the region through training trainers and setting up the infrastructure to maintain the instrumentation systems in the region.

It would strive to improve the operation life-cycle of installed systems and to reduce delays and work stoppage of production projects using these systems, thus enhancing the economic productivity of these projects.

Women — and men — see Toujan Faisal's gain as a step in the right direction, a plus for women

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Toujan Faisal was the first woman in Jordan's history to be elected to the Lower House of Parliament and her achievement will be recorded in history books. The Jordan Times asked a random sample of citizens what Ms. Faisal's 1,885 vote victory meant to them.

Those interviewed generally expressed approval of a woman serving in Parliament and most agreed that now was the time for women to have a say in the legislature.

Nidaa Addasi, an employee at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), said this is an excellent first step that will benefit the women of this country. "She (Ms. Faisal) will represent us in Parliament, and will work on achieving our demands and needs in this society," said Ms. Addasi. "There are some problems facing women that only another woman can understand better than a man would."

Ms. Addasi believed that the most important issue most women expect Ms. Faisal to argue for is providing

nurseries in government offices for mothers working in civil service.

A private sector employee said he believes that the role of women in the society is very important, and it was necessary for a woman to make it to the Parliament this year.

"I totally agree with the idea of a woman in the Parliament... because women are considered half the society and they should function properly in the society," said Adnan Abdul Rahman. The 63-year-old said it was unfortunate that only one woman succeeded, and he wished to see more women represented in the Lower House.

He added that he expected that the next elections will definitely see more women running and winning because they know that society's view towards women is gradually changing.

A communication engineer at the TCC said he was pleased to see a woman reaching Parliament and that he really did not care which candidate it was as long as it was a woman who was willing to accomplish something for the women of this society.

"It is important to see a woman really taking an im-

portant part in the society by sharing in legislation and general issues," said Iyad Inab, director general assistant for governors at the TCC.

Lamia Fakhoury, a private business owner said she was excited about having a woman in the Lower House and said she expects several important issues to be taken up by Ms. Faisal that will make some positive changes in the society.

"Hopefully, she (Ms. Faisal) will bring out some important issues for debate such as the Civil Status Law, inheritance, and the issue of women being regarded as half a voice when testifying, and many more issues that our society ignores," said Ms. Fakhoury (26).

A housewife, who preferred anonymity, said she was glad when she learned of Ms. Faisal's success and wished that more than one woman had won a seat to the legislative body. "Ms. Toujan is going to ask for women's rights in the new Parliament," she said.

The 40-year-old woman said she herself did not vote for a woman this time, but in the next elections she will

definitely do so if Ms. Faisal "proves herself" in the Parliament.

But Taher Yousef (26), an electrician, said he was pessimistic about the idea of having a woman deputy because, he maintained, the previous Parliament without a woman accomplished nothing for the society. "If the deputies in the 1989 Parliament did not work for people's interests, what would a woman deputy achieve that the previous deputies did not."

"I believe Ms. Faisal's win was just sympathy from the people because she is a woman, and people wanted to guarantee that a woman will reach the Parliament because males are the majority, and I don't think she will have a big role," said Mr. Yousef.

Mohammad Ateiat, another private sector employee said it is an excellent opportunity for women to prove themselves in Parliament like they did in the ministries in the past.

Mr. Ateiat accused the representatives in the previous Parliament of neglecting their supporters after they became deputies. He said they also did not fulfill most of their promises to the peo-

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Jordanian stamps exhibition at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweideh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

VACANCY SENIOR CLERK

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By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jordan Times

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Accusations need to be addressed

THE voters and candidates in this week's parliamentary elections who question the integrity of the results of these elections could be just bad losers. Candidates and their supporters who lose contests in any kind of election tend to develop a natural reflex to doubt the accuracy of the vote counting process. This is particularly so in countries that are still in the process of consolidating the gains and achievements of their fledgling democracies.

On the other hand, there may have been some omissions in conducting the elections on which candidates, who lost their bid for parliamentary representation, may capitalise on to cast doubts about the outcome. As for the possibility that some criminal manipulation was behind some of the voting results, we tend to believe that the government was not responsible for it. His Majesty King Hussein himself assured the country time and again that the general elections will be conducted fairly and freely. No one may take such assurances lightly. If there were in fact some irregularities or discrepancies here and there, the logical conclusion to be drawn from them is the proposition that whereas this country has made great strides in perfecting its democratic process it has yet to attain the degree of perfection that more established democracies have already achieved.

Still, all such accusations whether innocently made or otherwise deserve to be investigated by or contested in Parliament if some concerned candidates choose to do so in accordance with the Constitution. Left unaddressed, the challenges to the veracity of the elections could tarnish the image of the government that conducted them. Jordan celebrated its introduction of democracy with much fanfare both at the domestic as well as on the regional and international levels. We therefore cannot afford to let any finger-pointing at the elections mar the hard-won gains in pluralistic democracy.

In the new Parliament, there will be national figures whom the people of the country would trust to examine the charges against the way the elections were carried out. It should not be too difficult to assemble some of those in the Parliament committee that will be expected to look into allegations presented to it.

Meanwhile, the officially announced results must be regarded as valid and the newly elected Lower House should be convened on this basis. Jordan cannot afford to suspend the natural flow of events in the wake of the elections because some of the candidates feel or think that there were malicious interferences. The King is expected to summon the two chambers of Parliament to session by the first day of December. This orderly parliamentary process cannot be impeded unless and until it is proved beyond a shadow of doubt that in fact there were some prejudicial omissions in the conduct of the elections that may have affected a number of candidates, whether in Irbid, Balqa, or Amman's fifth district.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IF ISRAEL is truly oriented towards peace with the Palestinians and the other Arabs, why is it holding on to the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands, asked a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. According to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, Israel is supposed to withdraw its forces from all the lands it had occupied in the 1967 war and, if it is to implement these resolutions, no settlements should stay on Arab territory, said Ahmad Al Misch. Does Israel believe that the settlements around Jerusalem and the other Arab towns would create climate opportune for a genuine and lasting peace, asked the writer. Israel is wrong and is misled by these ideas which can only provoke the Arabs into continuing the struggle to liberate the whole of Palestine and not only those lands occupied since 1967, added the writer. The Israeli leaders should realise that their presence in Arab land is a kind of colonialism that should end sooner or later, especially as the Zionist movement is a racist movement which spreads the idea that Jews are superior to other races, he added. The Jewish settlements serve as a time bomb ready to explode and destroy the peace process unless Israel complies with the U.N. resolutions and gives up the Arab lands, stressed the writer.

A GUEST columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the newly elected deputies are now supposed to monitor the government's performance and take steps to correct any wrong, but these deputies have no one to hold them accountable for their own performance except the people of Jordan who elected them for a four-year term in Parliament. Nicola Nasser said that the candidates for the 12th Parliament filled the press and the banners with slogans and promises which were meant only to win the voters' favour, but in reality very few of these promises will be ever kept. Indeed, some of the candidates created false hopes in the minds of the electorate and through their deceptive slogans tried to win as many votes as possible for the sake of acquiring a seat in Parliament and not for serving the public interest, added the writer. He suggested the creation of public committees that would monitor the deputies' performance in the coming four years and pursue their activities, make public their excesses and expose their wrongdoing to the public.

Jordanian Perspective

Islamists far from defeated in the poll; Parliament is representative of Kingdom's pluralism

Ever since Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood won 23 seats in the Kingdom's 11th Parliament in elections held in 1989, the international media had been focusing on the "threats" that the movement posed to Jordan and the possibilities of the country being turned into a theocracy.

No doubt, the so-called international media experts on Jordan were indeed encouraged directly and indirectly by some among us, but, in my opinion, those some are a minority.

Now that the Brotherhood, running on an Islamic Action Front (IAF) ticket, lost six of the seats it held in Parliament in Monday's election, the media have gone into another ecstasy, describing it as a defeat for the "Islamists" of Jordan.

First of all, it will be highly representative of the Jordanian masses at large to say that we do resent the portrayal by the media of the IAF and other groups which base their ideologies on Islam as a potential danger to Jordan.

What is being overlooked by some of the media experts is the fact that these "Islamists" are part and parcel of the Jordanian political system. They did not land in Jordan from outer space to conquer the Kingdom; every one of them is very much from among us, living with us, with no drawing lines between us.

It is a narrow-minded view to categorise them as alien to the Jordanian society. They are one of the strands that make up the Jordanian fibre and are so intricately interwoven with the rest that if they are to be seen separately, then so should all other political forces (depending upon how the foreign pundits of the Jordanian political scene chose to see them).

Those pundits would also be enriching themselves if they looked into the record of the Brotherhood in this country since the 1950s. Off and on Brotherhood members were even described as "the King's men," they had a strong presence in every phase of the Jordanian society — whether in the armed forces or the diplomatic corps or the civil service or the business community.

If indeed the rule of the game is to judge the failure and success of the IAF on the basis of the number of seats it won in the 80-seat Parliament, then one has to go a little deeper into some of the facts and figures related to the elections:

True, the IAF, which fielded 36 candidates, won only 16 seats, compared to the 25 the front expected, and also found itself deprived of the five or six of the 10 independent Islamists whose support it could count on political, economic and social issues on a case-by-case basis.

But a closer look indicates:

— The 16 IAF candidates who won got 94,700 votes out of a total of 300,004 votes netted by the 80 successful candidates; meaning 31 per cent of the votes that went into successfully electing our next Parliament (I am not including the rest of the 821,000 votes cast since they went to candidates who did not make it). That 31 per cent is higher than what the Brotherhood secured in the 1989 elections. The 1993 figure does not include the votes secured by two IAF supporters who won as independents.

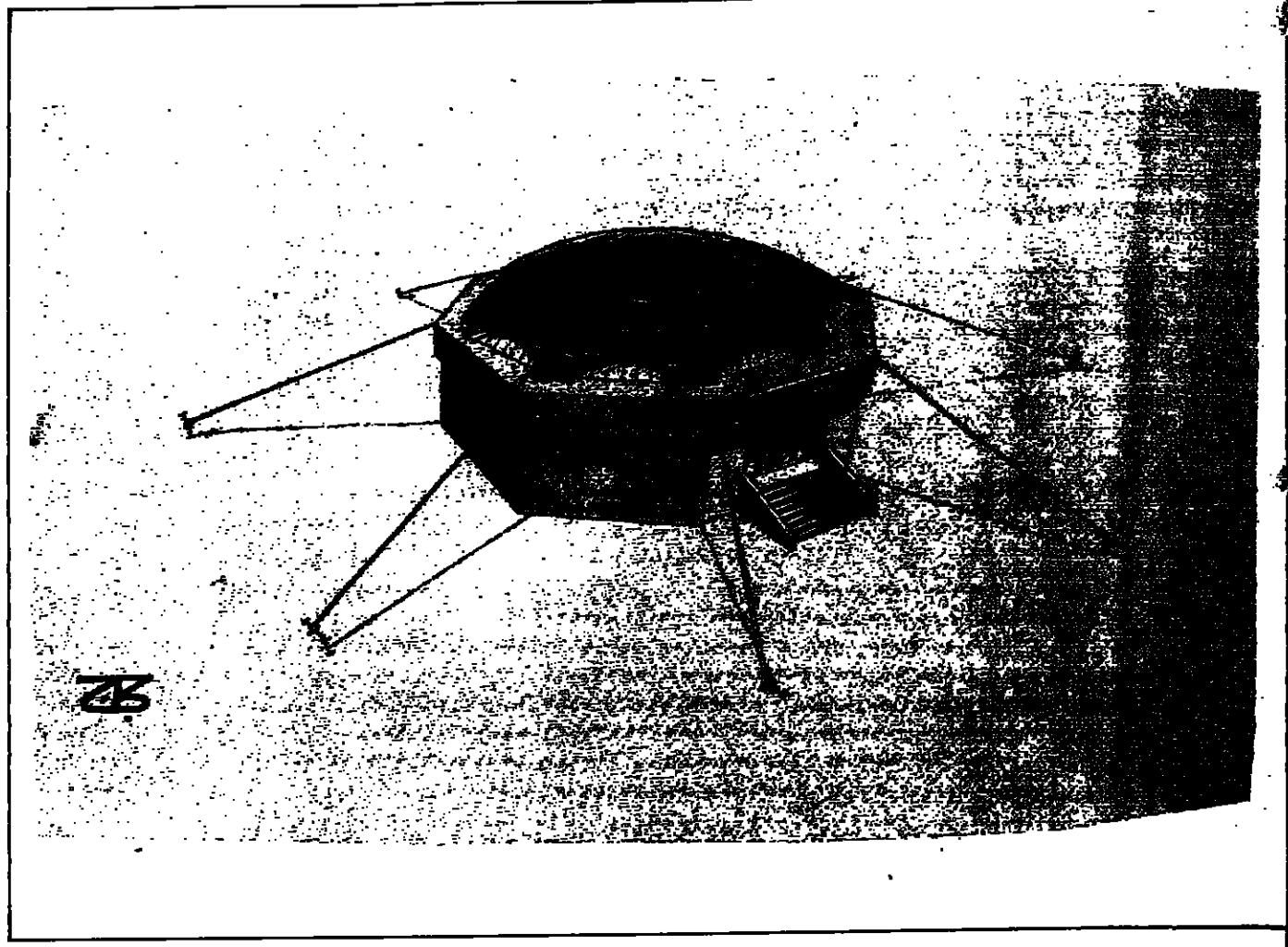
— In all major urban population centres, the IAF was the dominant factor and it was IAF candidates who took the distinction of being among the first 10 candidates who got the highest number of votes in the Kingdom.

Whether in Amman's First District, Second District, Third District and fifth District, or in Zarqa or Irbid, it was IAF candidates who led the table of results. There was no case of scrapping through. Their victory was decisive and very telling.

Now, if one wants to judge less than 50 per cent success for the IAF based on the total number of the candidates it fielded, then the element that has to be kept in the background is that the group did not actually want to field as many.

Call it a shortcoming if you will, but the reality was that the list of 36 that the IAF drew up two months ago was highly hypothetical and aimed at satisfying the demand of many of its members to run in the elections while the front took it for granted that the polls were going to be postponed.

The front was caught in its own game when it was announced that the elections would be held in time. It had no choice but to field the 36 candidates of its original list, if only because striking out anyone from the list would have meant an



erosion of support. By extension, it meant fielding candidates whose success was not only in doubt but who could actually split the votes of IAF supporters — and that is one of the key reasons for the dismal performance of the IAF in some districts.

The 16 seats that the IAF has secured in Parliament represent the organisational abilities and manoeuvrability to regroup and redeploy their forces to take the best advantage of the grassroots support it enjoys in the Jordanian electorate.

The most outstanding evidence in support of the IAF's popularity and the strongest counter-argument against those who argue that the Nov. 8 polls sounded the death knell for the "Islamists" is the victory of a front candidate in Amman's Third District — seen by many as the barometer of Jordanian political preferences.

It was not a case of marginal victory for the IAF candidate in the Third District; in fact, the candidate also has the distinction of being the second highest vote-getter in the entire Kingdom.

Shape and colours of Parliament

It stands out very clearly that the 12th Parliament of Jordan is the most representative of the legislative authority we ever had in Jordan, if only because it can reflect very candidly the political forces as well as the tribal blocs and the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship.

The assembly is very balanced, with a majority of middle class and pro-establishment Jordanians.

The new Parliament represents the new pluralism in Jordan: we have 16 from the IAF and 13 others representing eight other political parties — four from the bedouin-led Jordan National Alliance, three from the Al Ahd Party, two from the

Al Yakatha, one from Al Mustakbal, one from Hashd, one from the Baathist party and a foKmer, communist.

To crown the representative status of our 12th Parliament, we have the first woman deputy in the House and I believe judging from the courageous woman's record, she is going to make her presence felt.

It is interesting to note how the left fared. For one thing, all the secretaries-general of four prominent leftist parties lost, if only because they could not present a coherent leftist movement in Jordan and could not offer solutions to the bread and butter issues of Jordanians.

In my view, we should congratulate ourselves for having secured for ourselves a Parliament dominated by a large group of Jordanians who have actively participated in our public life. I believe they will be an asset to all of us.

Politics is not their forte, but their platforms are not any different from the mainstream lines followed by Jordan for decades, and this bodes well for the Middle East peace process since it defuses the political minefield that we face up ahead in our quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Indeed, the government faces a tough task ahead with the new Parliament, if only because there would be a higher demand for Cabinet posts from the new deputies as the price for their vote of confidence. In the face of the limitations that the government will face in meeting those demands, it is only a foregone conclusion deals will be made in terms of upgraded services for the constituents of those deputies who could not offered Cabinet seats.

Needless to say, the net outcome of such deals means an upgrading of services and infrastructure in backward areas — one of the main hopes of the people who cast their precious vote in favour of those who are going to sit under the domed Parliament house for the next four years.

The Week in Print

Press hails success of first woman in elections, deems results as representative of people's will

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

In the past week, the Jordanian press tackled the general elections, commenting on the voting and the results, as well as the various issues awaiting the coming Parliament.

Commenting on the election of the first woman in Parliament, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that Jordanian women have for the first time tasted success, following years of frustrations.

The election of a woman to Parliament, Rajaa Abu Ghazaleh said, reflects the public determination to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in order to bring women representatives to the legislative council to work side by side with men in handling public affairs.

Toujan Faisal's success, she added, would open the door wide for other women in future elections to run for Parliament.

Al Dustour said that the elections reflected the people's will and the Jordanian citizens' total orientation towards democracy. The paper said that the elected deputies who are now entrusted with the public confidence and are expected to live up to expectations of the people of Jordan and the country's leadership. The results of the elections, the paper added, won Jordan further credibility before the world.

Taher Al Udwan, a col-

umnist in Al Dustour, said the coming Parliament was not expected to present a dramatic performance, like that displayed by the previous one, due to the lack of strong opposition groups.

We had hoped to see new blood pumped into the legislative council as we had hoped to see representation of the various ideological, economic, cultural and political trends in the country, he added.

However, the writer said, the presence of a woman in Parliament could be an incentive to women unions to have their influence on the Parliament's future actions.

A columnist in Al Dustour urged the new deputies to tackle questions of immediate concern to the public. Mohammad Farra noted that the economic situation including the problems of unemployment and poverty, as well as means of promoting agricultural production and ensuring water supplies remain at the top of the list of priorities.

The writer also noted that the compensation of the Jordanian expatriates, returning from Kuwait, should be followed closely by the coming Parliament because any compensation would contribute to the national economy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily that the government

should further develop the one-person, one-vote system by assigning quotas for various governorates and minorities so that representation would be fairer.

Fahed Faneek said that quotas should be allocated to women, bedouins, Christians and Circassians in each governorate.

Commenting on the elections results, Sultan Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the national parties have not benefited from the democratic atmosphere and therefore failed to bring their representatives to Parliament.

He said that while women have achieved success by penetrating the legislative council with one deputy, the Islamists and the traditional candidates who served in Parliament before lost as a result of the voting last Monday.

Commenting on the ongoing attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the crimes of the settlers against the Palestinians can only trigger more violence in the occupied Arab lands.

The Arab countries ought to demand and ensure international protection for the Palestinian people in the face of these atrocities. Should these attacks continue, Mohammad Kawash said, the whole peace process will be undermined.

Boycotting Israel is justified, necessary until peace is attained

By Dr. Musa S. Braizat

The drive to divest the Arabs of the last card they have in their negotiations with Israel is mounting in western quarters.

One cannot fail to see an orchestrated campaign spearheaded by high level political aspirants and Arab-Bashers to further undermine an already weak position of the Arab parties negotiating with Israel the terms of an honorable, just and permanent peace. This is manifested by the repeated calls to lift Arab boycott against Israel.

Israeli apologists describe the boycott as "anachronistic," "illegitimate" and "unjustified," and frequently cite the initiation of the peace process and the signing of the Declaration of Principles as reasons for the need to terminate the Arab economic and political boycott of Israel.

While this reasoning may appear to carry some merit on the surface, in reality it smacks of tremendous disingenuity. The call for the lifting of Arab boycott began in western capitals long before the October-November 1991 Madrid peace conference, which is cited here in a post hoc manner. Furthermore, the advent of the peace process and the signing of the Declaration of Principles have changed little, if at all, the situation on the ground, a situation which led to the emergence of the boycott regime in the first place, as well as to its continuation.

The Arab countries imposed the boycott against Israel in response to Israel's occupation of Palestine in 1948, and the creation of the Jewish state.

The occupation was compounded by a no less injurious offense to the Arab side, namely the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of refugees: Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. The fact that Jewish

leaders deliberately resorted to terror against civilians and unarmed people to affect en masse flight of Palestinians is well-documented.

Refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza are strongholds of those opposing the latest PLO-Israeli deal. Aside from postponing the "discussion" of their fate after three years from the concluding of the interim self-government agreement, there is little of substance for the refugees in the pipeline which would assure the Arab side of an Israeli forthcoming attitude on this extremely vital issue.

Therefore, neither the Madrid process nor the White House south lane celebrations of October, during which the famous and Historic Arafat-Rabin handshake took place, actually brought anything of relevance to the refugees.

Also, one cannot ignore the fate of Arab Jerusalem over which Israeli spokesmen waste no time in affirming Jewish Sovereignty, latest reports about a softening of the Israeli position notwithstanding.

Having exposed the incorrectness of the reasoning put forward by Israel's apologists asking for the lifting of the Arab boycott, let us turn to an equally compelling point which this group conveniently chooses to disregard.

The Arab boycott is part and parcel of the whole pictures constituting the state of war between Israel and its Arab antagonists in which, I would hasten to add, the latter have been stripped of most of the leverage which they should maintain in order for them to be able to conduct meaningful and balanced negotiations with insatiable Israel.

Why should the Arabs be asked to lift the boycott, which

is, after all, one of their effective sources of leverage over Israel, without any quid pro quo? For these negotiations to succeed, the principles of reciprocity, symmetry and fairness must be upheld.

Finally, and as a reminder for those who talk of the illegitimacy of the Arab boycott, it may be worthwhile here to recall that the Arabs were not the first to introduce the notion of boycott in the modern history of the Middle East and within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

When Arab delegates were debating the issue within the framework of the League of Arab States, in the aftermath of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in 1948 and the expulsion of about half of the Palestinian people, they were very much influenced by the facts that Zionists leaders had earlier on introduced this concept by ordering a boycott of Palestinian labour and produce in the Jewish colonies in Palestine, in the 1920s and 1930s.

Only land purchase and money-lending to Palestinian farmers were sanctioned by the then local Jewish authorities which were acting as quasi government agencies on behalf of the World Zionist Organisation, the mother of the state of Israel.

Therefore, the Arab boycott is not only legitimate and justified but necessary as long as the conditions that led to its imposition in the first place have not been satisfactorily resolved.

The writer was a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. He is now a fellow visitor at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

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Journalist's tenet: 'We've just got to go on covering wars'

By Robert Fisk

I met Alexandra Tuttle in Sarajevo this summer. A bubbling Francophile American, she travelled with the French press, flak jacket dangling nonchalantly from her shoulder as she set off from the Holiday Inn each morning for the familiar, dangerous routine of reporting on the front lines and hospitals.

Gregarious would be the word that comes to mind. Alexandra was a contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, for whom she had written more than 70 first-rate, analytical stories. We had a silly row one night when she claimed that Iran was a threat to "Saudi democracy," and I tried to convince her that, for all its sins, Iran at least had a parliament while Saudi Arabia, for all its money, had none.

But she was generous enough to take my English cynicism in good heart. She wanted to know about my own home base of Beirut, about why I thought the Gulf war was a tragedy. My answer — that all wars are a tragedy because wars are primarily about death — met with her total agreement. Then I left for northern Bosnia and she returned to her home in Paris, where she kept a much-talked about dog called George.

A survivor, I thought. We journalists judge people like that these days. Alexandra Tuttle would survive.

So when I flew into Beirut from Cairo a few weeks ago, it was hard to believe the lonely little paragraph I read in the Lebanese papers. Alexandra Tuttle had been killed in Sukhumi, burnt to death in a military aircraft that had been hit by a ground-to-air missile.

Impossible. Survivors don't get killed. But true. Alexandra, one of her close friends told me, had boarded the flight in Tbilisi on Sept. 22, anxious to conduct a second interview with Eduard Shevardnadze who was still holding out in Sukhumi. A German photographer on the flight had second thoughts and disembarked before take-off, urging Alexandra to do the same. She refused.

She had not even told her news desk of her plans; so she lay for five days in a grave near Sukhumi airport before her employers, and her parents in Maryland, realised she was missing. The plane had broken in two when the Abkhazian missile hit it. Everyone in the front half died; Alexandra was in the cockpit.

The airport was under artillery fire at the time, but someone found her shredded U.S. passport and a crumpled photograph of her dog, George. With permission from the victorious Abkhazians, her family and friends are still hoping to repatriate her remains, if they can find her grave.

Even if we have never met those of our colleagues who pay so terrible a price for their vocation, the statistics of journalistic fatalities are now truly shocking. In 1992, 61 of all nationalities were shot, bombed or knifed to death — the largest number in Turkey, which always heads Index on Censorship's monthly list of countries in which journalists are murdered.

In the past 21 months, 37 journalists have died in the former Yugoslavia alone, many killed deliberately by snipers. David Kaplan, of *ABC News*, was shot dead near Sarajevo airport on Aug. 13, 1992. The bullet entered his car between the T and V of the "TV" sign pasted on the side; he was not wearing a flak jacket — which is why we all now clank around in 10kg vests and helmets.

Time was, we fondly believed, when we could claim some immunity: neutral observers of the truth, respected by all sides. Death would be generous and pass us by.

Maybe it started going wrong in Lebanon when journalists became the prey of kidnappers, who did not care about the press. Eighteen journalists died there, many of whom I knew. Clark Todd of Canadian Television, killed in the Chouf mountain war in 1983, wrote a last message of love to his family on a pillow case as he lay dying in the village of Kfar Matta. Robert Pfeiffer, a German magazine reporter, was shot dead in front of his wife by Palestinian gunmen in Beirut. Toufik Ghazawi and Bahij Metni, a CBS Lebanese crew, were torn to pieces by an Israeli tank shell near Kfar Melki after surviving 10 years of war.

Survivors do die, which is why many of us have developed weird habits. Martin Bell of the BBC wears mismatching socks in Bosnia. I try to avoid leaving for a danger-

ous location with any remark that could be remembered as "last words". Never, never leave for a battle with comments such as "Don't worry, I'll be OK," or "I hope the desk knows the risks we're taking". We all know we may not be OK, and we all suspect (sometimes rightly) that our news desks do not know the risks.

The younger we are, the more exposed we are. The first time I drove into Israeli tank fire in southern Lebanon in 1978 — in those days we had no flak jackets — I was so frightened that I started saying crazy things to myself like "Death can't be that bad", or "Well, at least if I die, I'll have another story tomorrow which won't be so risky".

I have often wondered whether the first journalists to die in Croatia, then in Bosnia, did so largely because they were young and inexperienced; because many of them knew only the Hollywood variety of war, where the stars always survive the death of their characters. There is a little *Somme* waiting for all innocent journalists.

In northern Kurdistan, a young American freelance on his very first war assignment was murdered by Iraqi soldiers. Gad Gross was a driven, brave young man who turned up briefly in Beirut before the Gulf war embraced the slaughter of the Kurds, then set off for the killing fields of northern Iraq in the hope of selling his pictures to an American news magazine. He was shot dead after screaming in rage at the Iraqi soldiers who had just murdered his Kurdish guide.

How should editors react? After three Reuters and an Associated Press journalist were killed by mobs in Mogadishu, most reporters pulled out of Somalia. A few weeks ago the last American journalist left, to the relief of the

blundering U.S. forces. In some news rooms, thankfully not all, there are those who question the worth of sending reporters to Bosnia.

But if we journalists have any reasons for our existence, the least must be our ability to report history as it happens. And history is dangerous. Beirut, Bosnia, Georgia, and Moscow: the siege of the White House killed Rory Peck. A British cameraman working for German television. I remember years ago how Sean McBride suggested that journalists must have special status, special protection. The Red Cross once mooted a white badge for war correspondents.

Yet we are not, and should not be, a special breed. Journalists have been dying for decades. One of the first foreign correspondents on the banks of the Nile by followers of the Mahdi, while trying to carry to Cairo a scoop on General Gordon's defiance upstream. In World War II, journalists accepted the death of their colleagues with sadness but inevitability: an AP reporter who dropped into the Balkans with the U.S. Special Forces was put in front of a German firing squad with the American soldiers, despite pleas for clemency.

As our lives become steadily more dangerous and the wars of Eastern Europe become ever more savage — we should rage against the deaths of our colleagues. And we should demand every protection. But the necessity of recording human suffering on an epic scale is worth the risk. And if editors came to feel otherwise, they would be providing a miserable memorial to those who have died.

Put painfully, we've just got to go on covering wars. And those are not last words — The Independent.



Alexandra Tuttle died when the Abkhazians shot down the plane taking her to meet the besieged Shevardnadze (File photo)

American Jewish peace activists say peace in the region should be equitable

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two American Jewish peace activists who were in Amman two days ago said there can be no peace in the region without granting the Palestinians their rights.

The two, Ira Grupper, national co-chair of the New Jewish Agenda, and Susan Kahn, a member of the organization, were on a visit to the region at the invitation of several individuals and organizations.

The New Jewish Agenda was founded in 1980 by "people from the United States and Canada." The organization issued that same year two resolutions: one calling for a state of Palestine alongside Israel, with secured boundaries for both, and the second asking for recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"Needless to describe the reaction of the Jewish community in the U.S. and Canada," said Mr. Grupper.

As the organization adopted more and more causes, it also made itself more enemies. "The organization has taken stands in support of peace and democracy in Central America. We have undertaken to deal concretely with the problem between the African-American and the Jewish communities in

the U.S.," said Mr. Grupper. Such stands are not destined to have a long life. So "for economic and political reasons we were forced to close our national office in New York," said Mr. Grupper.

Chapters of the organization still function in different other cities and in Canada.

Mr. Grupper and Ms. Kahn, in the region on a mission of peace were in Israel before coming to Jordan. They had been called there by Yesh G'vul, literary translating into "there is a limit," an organization of Israeli army reservists who had refused to pick up arms "against their Palestinian sisters and brothers."

Another invitation had come from the society of St. Yves, a Catholic human rights monitoring organization based in Jerusalem and several Palestinian organizations.

"The reason Yesh G'vul was anxious for us to come is because there is confusion about the peace process. The peace movement in the U.S. has to be made aware of the latest developments in the occupied areas and in Israel proper," said Mr. Grupper, adding that the Israeli government actions subsequent to the signing of the PLO-Israel deal on Sept. 13 "are not in concord with the letter and the spirit of the accord."

To support his argument,

Mr. Grupper mentioned the building of 70,000 housing units in Jerusalem.

Other meetings were with members of the Knesset (Israeli parliament), the representative of the press office of the foreign ministry, Palestinian and Jewish peace organizations and representatives of the settlers in one right wing community.

In Jordan, they attended various meetings scheduled for them and met Omar Khatib, charge d'affaires at the Palestinian embassy, Asa'ad Abdul Rahman, on the board of directors of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and members of the Jordanian peace delegation Marwan Dudin, Taiseer Aruri and Jawad Anani.

"Jordanians are warm, understanding and politically cognizant of the significance of the peace process will have not only in Palestine but also in Syria, Jordan, Israel," said Mr. Grupper.

His organization, which two and a half years ago numbered 6,000 members, faces problems that "reflect the dilemma of the progressive movement in the U.S. and the world."

"We were vilified by the Jewish establishment over many years," said Mr. Grupper, who also explains the personal reasons behind his visit to the region.

"I want to make a differentiation between the feeling of guilt for what is being done to Palestinians and the understanding that I, as an individual, am responsible for my acts. I do not believe in guilt, but I believe in mob psychology. I do not feel very good about what is happening to my Palestinian brothers and sisters."

While finding the visits fruitful, Mr. Grupper acknowledges that after meeting with all the people they have, the feeling is that the majority favours peace, but is also "wary of how words on paper will be translated in times of peace."

Leaving Amman for Paris, the two peace messengers are to report on their activities to "Jewish and non-Jewish peace forces."

Back home, they are scheduled to appear before the media in "a couple of places" and might organise a national tour to speak about "what we have observed and what we feel about the peace process." At the same time, the two activists will be trying to facilitate meetings of Arab and Jewish peace organisations.

The reason for the existence of their organisation is that "there was for too long an old Jewish agenda which conciliated sexism and racism and was not in pursuit of social justice."

Islamists, liberals resume debate in Kuwait

By William Maclean
Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti Islamists and liberals, scarcely a year after they agreed a truce, are again vigorously promoting their conflicting models for Kuwaiti society.

The robust exchanges, in the press, in public and in parliament, pick up on the political contest they tacitly suspended last year in the interests of a larger cause — the restoration of parliamentary democracy after a six-year break.

The focus of the revived debate between the Islamists and the liberals — a diverse collection of leftists, Arab nationalists and democrats — is an Islamist proposal to amend the constitution to make Islam the sole source of law.

Article two of the constitution now says Islam is "a main" — thus not the only — source of legislation.

Other Islamist demands include a ban on bank interest and some commissions in trade deals, restrictions on the portrayal of women in the media and a public authority to encourage strict Muslim behaviour.

The debate has implications for wide-ranging administrative reforms taking place in education, the economy and the bloated state bureaucracy. The government says the reforms will create a more vital and productive society.

It may eventually have an equally profound effect on parliament and the daily life of Kuwait's 1.5 million people.

Democrats elsewhere in the Gulf are watching Kuwait's parliamentary experience closely in the hope that, if it succeeds, other conservative Gulf rulers will follow suit. As elsewhere in the Gulf the alcohol is banned and many forms of live entertainment are discouraged.

But an outspoken parliament, press and discussion groups known as diwanis have created lively intellectual traditions and women hold senior business and government jobs. Women may also drive, for example, whereas in Saudi Arabia they may not.

The Islamist-liberal debate uses strong language. "This group of... extremists, this limited group of (liberal) columnists — their scorpions of hatred are not released and

their winds of malice do not blow unless they sniff the scent of Islam stirred by the activity of its sons and promoters," Islamist parliamentarian Khaled Al Adwa wrote in a newspaper.

"(They are) a very limited group that the Kuwaiti Muslim people recognise, know well and whose danger they realise."

"Muslim people will always vote for Islamic voices and discard other ideologies," said Abdulrazak Al Shayei, a member of the headline Salaf (ancestors) Islamic group. He was quoted as saying the United States, which led the alliance that ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991, was busy working against a worldwide Islamic revival.

Ahmad Baghdadi, an associate professor of political science at Kuwait University, stated a liberal view: "We know our society. Kuwait has never been a hardline state."

"We have been and always will be a contradictory society," he told the English-language Arab Times newspaper. "We will be able to tune into a state religious channel and MTV (a U.S. satellite TV music channel) at the same

time, and will a change in article two be able to change this contradiction?"

"The whole idea (of amending article two) looks antagonistic to personal freedom and choice, to women's rights, to the rights of the most educated in society, to private enterprise and to the foreign community," said Shafeeq Ghabra, another associate professor of political science.

Both Islamists and liberals set aside their differences to campaign for the restoration of parliament after the Gulf war. The opposition dominated elections in October 1992 and the Islamists are the largest and most cohesive component in the opposition.

A core of 15 Islamist members can call on an equal number of centrists or independents whose constituencies are fluid enough for them to vote for the Islamists when Islam is an issue.

Liberal columnist Abdullah Al Duwaili said one aim of liberal Kuwaitis, who identify with 10 to 15 members, was to build enough popular backing to enable them to contest the 1996 parliamentary elections "with full force."

World water shortages spreading

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People from Los Angeles to Beijing to Riyadh are having to look further and further away for fresh water, and a new report says water scarcity is a spreading global problem.

Proposals to tow around icebergs from Antarctica or to fill giant plastic bladders with lake water will not be enough to quench the world's thirst, said Bob Engelman, co-author of the Population Action International Report. Other ideas include building desalination plants or international water pipelines.

"Expense keeps getting in the way," Mr. Engelman said in an interview.

Libya rejects sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

equipment. It expands an air and arms embargo in effect since April 1992.

However, it falls short of doing what most critics say is the only way to force Libya to turn over the suspects: banning the sale of Libyan oil.

Libya's economy relies on daily oil exports of 1.5 million barrels that generate \$9 billion a year in revenue. The new resolution, adopted 11-0 vote with four abstentions, was pushed through by the United States, Britain and France. Britain and the United States insist the two men be tried in one of their countries for the bombing of the American jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. France wants to question four other Libyans in the 1989 bombing of a French jet that killed 171 people.

"The bottom line of this is simply that the rate of population growth in countries experiencing water scarcity is vastly outpacing population growth of the world as a whole," he said.

By 2025, one out of three people will be living in countries with inadequate fresh water supplies, said the report "sustaining water: Population and the future of renewable water supplies."

The current ratio is about one out of 15.

The report is based on projections of population growth for 149 countries, combined with known data on renewable fresh water supplies. The country with the biggest supply is Iceland, with 666,667 cubic metres of water available per

person per year. The lowest is in Djibouti with 23 cubic metres.

Djibouti and 19 other countries are listed as "water-scarce", with less than 1,000 cubic metres per person. That's not enough to sustain human health or economic development, scientists say.

Eight more countries have what scientists call "water-stressed" conditions, with less than 1,700 cubic metres per person. Over the next three decades, between 46 and 52 countries will be either "water-stressed" or "water-scarce", the report said.

"There are no substitutes — as human populations grow, there's less renewable water for each person," said Mr. Engelman.

The result is that countries are either forced to limit the use of water or deal with the problem of disease as people turn to untreated water.

The report noted that some countries will suffer much more than others. Britain and Iran, for example, now have about equal populations and accessible water supplies, but the projection shows Iran will have about one-half the available water per person in 2025 while Britain's per capita supplies will dwindle by only about 5 per cent.

Even in the United States, which has abundant fresh water supplies nationally, regional demands often exceed supply, the report said. It cited efforts by water-poor urban areas in California to draw from water-rich areas around the state.

It also noted much of the county's dependence on the deep aquifer that runs from South Dakota to Texas and

says signs of scarcity and contamination have been emerging in recent years.

Far worse, though, are conditions in Saudi Arabia, which already is on the "water-scarce" lists and depends almost entirely on water that has taken centuries to accumulate deep within the ground.

"Estimates of the lifespan of Saudi Water reserves vary widely, with one estimate suggesting they could run out early in the next century," the report said.

In Mexico City, the report said, demand for water and sanitation services already exceeds supply, with pumping of water causing shifting and subsiding land, falling water tables and a deteriorating water supply.

In China, it said, more than 200 major cities already lack adequate water. Water tables under Beijing are dropping three to six feet a year, and the city is looking for new supplies over 1,000 kilometres away.

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TAIWAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES

The delegation of 35 businessmen from 26 major suppliers in Taiwan are in Amman now, and will be pleased to receive any Jordanian businessman concerned today, Saturday the 13th of November at the Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. so, don't miss this golden opportunity to make business with Taiwan and get a profitable deal!

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Grand Sunday
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Sri Lankan troops fight grim battle against Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces rescued some troops Friday from a northern military base where up to 250 soldiers are feared killed in a battle still raging with Tamil rebels, military officials said.

Reinforcements had yet to reach the besieged defenders, they said.

"Our reinforcements could not make an amphibious landing close at the camp last night because of enemy resistance," a senior military official told Reuters.

"But we have to reach the defenders without delay or the camp will fall," he said they were determined to hold the camp.

The attack on the isolated Pooneryn Base on the shores of Jaffna Lagoon was the worst defeat for government forces since the Tamil revolt for a separate homeland began 10 years ago.

Fighting was continuing Friday, the military said.

The surprise rebel strike raised questions as to whether the government should continue its relentless battle against the rebels or opt for negotiations.

"The writing is on the wall. The government can't fight the war," said retired Air Force Commander Harry Gunatillake.

The air force bombed rebel targets in the Jaffna district Friday but denied a report that the region's main government office was hit.

A Defence Ministry statement said many of the defenders had re-grouped after scattering in confusion during Thursday's attack.

"Until reinforcements are in position and the situation brought fully under control, the casualty figures of the security forces cannot still be declared with certainty," it said.

Officials said they feared 250 soldiers had been killed in the attack. Northern residents gave a figure of between 250 and 500. About 60 rebels are said to have been killed.

Army reinforcements, sent by sea, were waiting off the coast after several attempts to land near the base were thwarted by the rebels, officials said.

But 30 sailors and six soldiers broke through rebel lines at dawn and waded across the lagoon to another army base, they said. An earlier report said 40 sailors had been rescued.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were using captured 120 mm heavy mortars to fire at the base.

Defence analysts and diplomats said the fall of the camp

could give the Tigers unhindered access to their northern stronghold in the Jaffna peninsula.

The base was set up to prevent rebel boat traffic across the lagoon, which separates the peninsula from the mainland.

Commander Gunatillake said President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga might have to ease rhetoric on the war after the latest debacle.

Mr. Wijetunga, in office since May, has often said the crisis is a "terrorist" problem and not an ethnic one. He has vowed to wipe out the rebels, backing military hardliners, including Army Chief Cecil Waidyaratne.

Last month the army advanced into rebel territory in the north intending to destroy a rebel pier and boats at Killaly, near Pooneryn.

After a battle that left 350 rebels and soldiers dead and destroyed 200 to 300 boats, the army withdrew. The rebels resumed using the pier the next day.

More than 30,000 people — guerrillas, military personnel and civilians — have died in the conflict since 1983.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary committee trying to end Sri Lanka's 10-year-old ethnic war recommended in a report presented to parliament Friday that minority Tamil demands

for autonomy be met by more devolution of power.

But the Parliamentary Select Committee, appointed two years ago, failed to agree on a peace formula to end the war by Tamil guerrillas for a separate state in the island's north and east.

The parliamentary report, presented by committee Chairman Mangala Moonesinghe of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), said the devolution contemplated in previous legislation had not been fully implemented.

The committee was appointed in mid-1991 and held the first of its 47 meetings the following November.

Made up of members of the ruling party and other parties in parliament, the committee was expected to "arrive at a political solution to the question involving the devolution of power to the north and the east."

Tamils want the two provinces to be treated as one region. Sinhalese and Muslim politicians say doing that would mean virtually giving in to the rebels' demand for a separate homeland.

The report said the majority of committee members favoured greater devolution but it could not decide on the main issue of dividing the provinces or keeping them as one unit.



Sri Lankan soldiers search a vehicle Friday as part of a stepped up security measure in the wake of a massive Tamil Tiger rebel attack on a military base in the island's north (AFP photo)

7th Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A Chinese doctor and civil servant armed with surgical knives and fake bombs hijacked a Chinese airliner to Taiwan Friday and said they were pro-democracy dissidents seeking political asylum.

It was the seventh hijacking of a Chinese plane to Taiwan this year, and the third in eight days.

The two men took control of the China Northern Airlines MD-82 jet with 82 people on board as it overflew Shanghai on a flight between the Northern Chinese city of Changchun and Fuzhou in the south.

The hijackers said they were members of China's Democracy Movement and were present in Beijing's Tiananmen Square when troops crushed pro-democracy protests with heavy loss of life on June 4, 1989.

"We came to Taiwan to find democracy. Mainland China is in darkness," one of the men, Li Xiangyu, 35, an employee of a Chinese government economic agency, told a news conference.

The other hijacker was identified as Han Shuxue, 40, a medical doctor. Both were from the northeastern province of Jilin. They claimed two attaché cases containing equipment to test blood pressure were bombs, police said.

A stewardess among the plane's nine crew members was slightly hurt when a hijacker grappled with her, said police at Taipei's international airport, where the plane landed.

The hijackers were detained and prosecutors said they would be tried on air piracy charges. The prosecutors declined to comment on whether their request for asylum might be granted.

The plane, crew and other passengers were sent back to China 4½ hours later after police searched the aircraft to see whether it contained electronic spying equipment operated by the Chinese government. No such equipment was found.

The men said they went on the run together after the killings at Tiananmen and tried but failed to escape from China through its southwest province of Yunnan. They said it was hard for them to obtain jobs in China because of their background.

"I'd rather die than return to the mainland," said Mr. Li, who appeared relaxed and confident. He said he was prepared for a long prison sentence in Taiwan.

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The seven hijackings to Taiwan since April — including one on Nov. 5 and one last Monday — have become a big source of tension between Taiwan and China, diplomatic enemies since Taipei's Nationalist government lost the civil war in 1949.

Each time, the hijackers asked for asylum in Taiwan, which rejected China's request to repatriate them immediately. The most recent incident was the first in which hijackers actually said they belonged to the Democracy Movement.

Taipei and Beijing have been trying to negotiate a pact under which hijackers would be sent back to China to deter future incidents, but two rounds of talks have ended without agreement.

In Beijing an official of CAAC, China's aviation authority, said Friday that Taiwan should return the hijackers immediately.

Taiwan, which has accused China of deliberately allowing the hijackings to take place, possibly in an effort to test its air defences, denounced the most recent incident.

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U.K. queen mother sends aide for cop video

LONDON (R) — The queen mother was so disappointed to miss the last episode of a television series featuring a gritty Glasgow police detective that a video of it was rushed to her London palace. At the age of 93, Queen Elizabeth's mother, known as the "Queen Mum", had sat spellbound through "Taggart", which is regularly watched by 14 million viewers across Britain. "We received a call from an enquiry last week saying the queen mother had seen the first two episodes, but had unfortunately missed the third and could we possibly send them a tape," a spokesman for Scottish Television said Friday. "We were very happy to comply with her request."

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Angie Dickinson refuses tribute

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16 teams battle for last 9 places in World Cup

LONDON (Agencies) — England almost certainly won't make it to next year's World Cup in the United States. Italy and Argentina could miss out.

The last round of qualifying matches are being staged Wednesday, with the prospect that three of the 1990 semi-finalists may not play in the 1994 competition.

The fourth, Germany, is already there, but it gained an automatic berth because it is the defending champion.

Joining the Germans are the United States, another automatic qualifier as host nation, and title favourite Brazil, which qualified two months ago.

But the rest of the teams that have qualified hardly read like a World Cup who's who — Colombia, Bolivia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Russia, Greece, Norway, Sweden and Mexico.

Sweden was runner-up when it hosted the competition in 1958. Russia, then the Soviet Union, was a semi-finalist in 1966. None of the others have ever reached that far.

While some outsiders have come through the qualifying rounds, some of soccer's mightiest teams are in danger of missing out on the first World Cup in the United States.

Argentina, a two-time champion which lost to Germany in the 1990 final in Rome, has been forced into a play-off with Australia. The two teams tied 1-1 in Sydney two weeks ago, and whoever loses the Nov. 17 second leg in Buenos Aires goes out.

So far, only four European teams other than Germany have qualified. Eight more European berths remain to be filled.

Denmark, the European champion, still has not qualified, neither has England, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. They have all left until the last game.

England has only a tiny chance of making it.

The 1966 champion has to win the San Marino by seven goals and then hope that Poland, which already has been eliminated, can beat the Dutch at home.

"Our hope is to go out with a bang," said England manager Graham Taylor, who could be facing his last match after 3½ years in charge. "I hope the miracle will occur. If we find



Norway's Nalle (centre) duels with Turkish defenders during their World Cup qualifying match in Istanbul, Turkey (AFP photo)

seven goals or more, it still may not be enough."

England's absence for the first time since 1978 would be a disaster for a country that is regarded as the cradle of soccer.

But elimination for Italy would be an even bigger upset. The Italians have failed to qualify only once, in 1958. They will miss out again if they lose to Portugal Wednesday.

On paper, the Italians should be able to achieve a draw at home to Portugal. Playing for a tie, however, could be a tactical blunder against a Portuguese team unbeaten on the road and under less pressure.

If Italy goes out, Portugal and Switzerland, which hosts Estonia Wednesday, advance.

The elimination of Italy would be a major blow to the large number of Americans of Italian ancestry living in the United States.

The same applies to Ireland and Spain.

The Irish team botched a chance to qualify when it lost 3-1 at home to Spain. That result put Spain second in the Group 3 standings, ahead of Ireland and behind Denmark.

Only one point separates Denmark from the other two.

On Wednesday, Spain hosts Denmark and Ireland goes to Belfast to face Northern Ireland in a game that has political as well as sports significance.

Most people in the Irish Republic believe the whole of Ireland should be united and ruled from Dublin. Most people

in Northern Ireland prefer to be under the British flag. The result has been decades of violent conflict.

After winning its first six games in Group 4, Belgium should have been the first European team to qualify.

But losses to Wales in March and Romania last month slowed the Belgians' charge towards the finals, and now they must gain a point at home to Czech Republic to qualify.

A surprise loss in Brussels would open the door not only to the RCS but to either Wales or Romania, who meet in Cardiff.

Wales, which has Manchester United stars Mark Hughes and Ryan Giggs as well as famed Liverpool striker Ian Rush on its team, has been to the finals only once, in 1958.

Like neighbour Belgium, France was another team forced to put the champagne on ice.

The French led Israel 2-1 last month with 10 minutes to go. But Israel, already eliminated, came back to win 3-2, so France must tie with Bulgaria in Paris to make sure this time.

On the same night that 16 teams battle over the remaining nine places, Germany faces Brazil in an exhibition game in Cologne.

The game's 51,000 tickets have been sold out for three months. German soccer officials say they could have sold 150,000 tickets if they'd had a big enough stadium.

Meanwhile Turkish football fans enjoyed another night of celebration Wednesday as Norway lost their unbeaten World Cup record in their final qualifier in Istanbul.

The Norwegians had already assured their place in next year's finals as winners of Group 2 in the European qualifying zone but they were still expected to finish the group unbeaten.

Instead, they were stunned after only five minutes when Saglam Ertugrul found himself unmarked in the six-yard box to meet a low cross and fire Turkey ahead.

Twenty minutes later, the Samsunspor striker squeezed between two Norwegian defenders before slotting the ball past Erik Thorstved to set up a memorable victory a week after Galatasaray put Manchester United out of the European Cup.

Lars Bohinen hit the bar with a long range shot before pulling a goal back for Norway four minutes after the break with a sweetly-struck half-volley from just inside the box.

But, with nothing at stake, the visitors were unable to get the equaliser they needed to preserve their unbeaten record.

In a Group 6 match in Tel Aviv, Israel were unable to build on their upset victory over France last month.

Finland scored three in a twenty minute burst mid-way through the second half before Roman Harazi grabbed a late consolation goal in the final minute.

Becker survives scare to reach EC quarters

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Boris Becker survived a first-serve thriller to beat American Chuck Adams 7-6, 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals of the European Community Tennis Championship.

Third seed Becker converted his third setpoint to prevail 9-7 in the tie-break after Adams wasted three setpoints when leading 6-3.

Becker became increasingly nervous after Adams broke his serve in the sixth game of the first set and started gesturing and shouting to himself in German after almost every mistake.

The second set hardly went more smoothly for Becker. Many games went to deuce and Becker had to dig deep before converting his fourth matchpoint on Adams' serve after two hours 20 minutes.

Becker had to win the match to keep alive his hopes of qualifying for next week's ATP finals.

Becker, who won the season-ending finals in Frankfurt last year, is one of three players in Antwerp who can still qualify for the finals.

The others, Croat Goran Ivanisevic and Frenchman Cedric Pioline — seeded fifth and fourth respectively — clash in the quarterfinals.

In-form Ivanisevic, who won the Paris Open last week, stayed on course for the ATP finals by breezing past Belgian Johan Van Herck.

In a match between two wild card entries, Ivanisevic's main problem was sealing the tie, which he did with an ace on his fifth match point to prevail 6-3, 6-3.

Pioline knocked out German Marc Goellner 6-3, 7-6 after saving two setpoints in the tie-breaker.

"He's a dangerous player. He's got a big serve and a big forehand. If you go into a third set, you never know what might happen," said Pioline, ranked 11th in the world.

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S. Arabia beat Jordan 69-53 at Asian Basketball Championships

By Aileen Rannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN'S national basketball team Friday lost a good opportunity to qualify for the Asian Championships, second round when they lost 69-53 to Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom's team, which left Amman for Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, is grouped with titleholders China, Pakistan, Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

Assuming that Jordan can beat both Pakistan and Thailand, a win over Saudi Arabia would have qualified them to the second round in which eight teams will be fighting for the title and top-two places to qualify for the World Championships in Canada.

However, losing the first and most important match has diminished the chances of qualifying and Jordan will most probably end up playing for 8-18th places.

Saudi Arabia looked like they would be the eventual winners of the match, playing

in a more coherent and confident manner.

Marwan Ma'touq gave Jordan a 15-14 lead with a three pointer, however from then on, the Saudis adopted a tight full court press defence and converted many loose balls to lead 33-23, before ending the first half 36-25.

They continued to expand the gap to 41-26 before Jordan's new younger lineup of players, including Walid Badran and Jihad Saliba, succeeded in somewhat narrowing the gap.

Jordan's undisputed star of the match, Marwan Saeedi carried the burden of defensive and offensive rebounding in the absence of key guard Naser Bushnaq, who stayed behind in Amman because of an aggravated ankle injury.

Saeedi scored, followed by a three-pointer by Saliba and two more baskets by Saeedi as the scoreboard showed the Saudis leading 48-41.

However, the first minutes of the second half were the only period when the Jordanian players seemed to be playing for a win. Saudi Arabia again applied a tight defence, as Saeedi was the only one scoring for Jordan alongside Saliba. All-time greats Murad and Hilal Barakat or Samir Murqos and three-point experts Matouq and Yousef Zaghloul were well below their usual level. They were depending on individual skills.

The Saudis led 59-46 and 65-51 before winning the match 69-53 on the opening day of the 17th Asian Basketball Championship.

Jordan next play Pakistan Sunday in another Group A match.

Group B includes South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

Group C includes Japan, Iran, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, while Taiwan, N. Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia and Bangladesh are in Group D.

The top two teams from

each group will qualify for the second round, where the four winning teams will compete for the title and top four positions and the losers will play for 5-8th places.

The Jordanian team will have to win the next two matches against Pakistan and Thailand and hope that Saudi Arabia lose to China and another team in order to have the chance to move to the second round.

Jordan had finished eighth among 15 countries in the 1983 championships in Hong Kong. In 1985 in Malaysia, they finished sixth, and in 1991 in Japan they finished eighth.

At the moment it seems all hopes for an advanced standing in the current championships have almost faded away.

Meanwhile, in other matches Taiwan beat Kuwait 76-65; North Korea overcame Malaysia 75-70; Thailand beat Pakistan 91-70 and the United Arab Emirates scored a 74-70 victory over the Philippines.

Ivanov retires after world weightlifting title win

MELBOURNE (R) — Bulgarian Olympic champion Ivan Ivanov picked up his fourth title with a world record of 277.5 kg in the new 54-kg class on the first day of the World Weightlifting Championships and then said he was retiring.

Ivanov, 22, won the title at the new weight on his last lift of the competition, but told reporters he was retiring from weightlifting to spend more time with his wife and son.

"I feel very tired. I want a break from weightlifting and spend more time with my family. But maybe after a long break I might change my mind," Ivanov said.

The gold medalist in Barcelona last year in the old 52-kg class said there were now many good lifters in his division.

"I am not scared of the opposition. I like competition,

but there is so much pressure on me before the competition this is what I don't like," the diminutive Bulgarian said.

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), which also counts on Olympic gold as a world title, changed the weight divisions at the beginning of the year in an effort to clean up the sport, as many previous world records were believed to be drug-aided.

Ivanov was closely contested by Turkey's Halil Mutlu who was leading the lightest division in the 65th men's championships until Ivanov cleared 157.5 kg on his third jerk to set up his world record.

Mutlu, who finished fifth at the 1992 Olympics, said he was disappointed with his performance.

"I was so confident I would

win the world championship, but it was not my day," Mutlu said.

Mutlu, 20, known as the "tiny Turk," equaled the 275 kg that he lifted to win the world junior titles earlier this year, which was also the previous heaviest lift in the category this year.

Ivanov, who has never won the snatch competition in any of his world title wins could only manage a 120.0 kg lift in the snatch.

China's Yang Bin won the snatch with a best lift of 122.5 kg, but still missed out on a medal, coming fourth behind South Korea's Ko Kwang-Ku, who picked up the bronze.

Organisers were embarrassed that they could not raise the South Korean flag for Kwang-Ku during the medal presentation.

tion, which was stolen along with 20 other flags after Thursday night's opening ceremony.

Mystery surrounded the withdrawal of world champion Guan Hong from China in the women's 46-kg class, which was won by Taiwan's Nan-Mei Chu with a world record 152.5 kg in the new division.

Organisers said Hong didn't show for the weigh-in, but may compete in Saturday's 50-kg class.

The Chinese women were expected to make a clean sweep of the women's titles, after winning in all nine divisions at the last World Championships.

Taiwan also picked up silver with Shiu-Fen Yu lifting 147.5 kg. Satomi Saito from Japan took bronze with the same total as Yu, but needed more attempts.

Sabatini advances to Philadelphia quarterfinals

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over 21-ranked Lindsay Davenport.

Sabatini, the fourth seed, will face unseeded Amy Frazier, who upset seventh-seed Mary Pierce Thursday 7-6 (11-9) 6-4.

Amanda Coetzer, seeded eighth, defeated qualifier Ann Henricksson, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) and will face top-seed Steffi Graf.

The other quarterfinal pits second-seed Conchita Martinez and ninth-seed Natalia Zvereva.

Unseeded Kimberly Po, who upset sixth-seed Helena Sukova in the first round, beat doubles partner Marianne Durbel and will face Zina Garrison, who defeated Lori McNeil 6-3, 6-1.

Sabatini has not won a tournament since the Italian Open in May of last year. Although she has reached at least the semifinals of nine tournaments this year.

Guillermo Vilas, a former Australian, French and U.S. Open champion has been coaching Sabatini for the last month.

"I feel more confident with my game," Sabatini said after defeating Davenport. Now I go

into a match with a plan, and I feel more relaxed. We're working on me being more aggressive."

Sabatini used a service break at love in the seventh game to take the first set from Davenport, who had defeated her in March at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

In the second set, she broke Davenport in the first game, then won the next four games to take control.

Frazier, who took six months off from the tour this year, matched the hard-hitting Pierce stroke for stroke.

Frazier came back from a 2-5 deficit to force a first-set tiebreak, which she won on her fourth set point when she forced Pierce into a backhand error.

Pierce, ranked 15th, rebounded in a second set that featured seven service breaks, but could not hold off Frazier.

"Any win, I feel, is a good win, because everyone is so good now, said the 21-year-old Frazier, whose ranking has dropped from a high of 15 in 1991 to its current 53.

"I'm taking each match, each point, one at a time. I haven't even looked to see who I'm playing next."

Meanwhile, Graf will face Zvereva in the opening round next week as the No. 1 seed begins her quest for her first

Virginia Slims Championships title since 1989.

Monica Seles, who has won the season-ending tournament at Madison Square garden the last three years, has not played since she was stabbed by a spectator during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on April 30.

The week-long Virginia Slims Championship begins Monday.

Second seeded in the 16-player field is Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who will more than likely play Helena Sukova in the first round. Sukova could be replaced in the \$3.5 million tournament by McNeil if McNeil wins this week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Other first-round matches will pit third-seeded Martina Navratilova against Natalie Tauziat, No. 4 Conchita Martinez against Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, No. 5 Gabriela Sabatini against Marya Pierce, No. 6 Mary Joe Fernandez against Amanda Coetzer, No. 7 Jana Novotna against Zina Garrison Jackson.

In a separate development, the women's Tennis Association (WTA) has hired a German lawyer to try to overturn

the suspended sentence of the man who stabbed Seles.

"Our players were outraged by the decision made in the Germany court, not only because of Monica, but also because of their concern for worldwide security measures," Gerard Smith, WTA executive director and chief executive officer, said Thursday.

"Clearly the court's decision sends a terrible message with wide-ranging impact," Smith said.

Gsuenter Parche was convicted of stabbing Seles in the back during a tournament in Hamburg on April 30.

However, Judge Elke Bosse gave Parche a two-year suspended sentence and released him for time served. Explaining the mild sentence, she said she believed Parche's claim that he only wanted to slightly hurt Seles and not kill her.

In a statement announcing the hiring of Hamburg lawyer Hajo Wandschneider, the WTA said its basic interest is to see what the suspended sentence is revised and that Parche's punishment match "the viciousness and lawlessness of his act."

Cantona gets 4 match ban

ZURICH (AFP) — Manchester United's Eric Cantona has been suspended for four UEFA club matches for "improper behaviour" following his sending off at the end of last week's European Cup match against Turkish side Galatasaray.

UEFA's disciplinary committee Friday revealed their decision the French player had behaved in a particularly improper manner towards the referee.

Cantona also allegedly suggested referee Kurt Rothlisberger was corrupt by claiming some referees took bribes, but UEFA decided to take no action following his outburst.

Cantona later denied making the allegations.

English champions Manchester United drew 0-0 in Turkey but were eliminated on the away goals rule.

Becker survives scare to reach EC quarters

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Boris Becker survived a first-serve thriller to beat American Chuck Adams 7-6, 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals of the European Community Tennis Championship.

Third seed Becker converted his third setpoint to prevail 9-7 in the tie-break after Adams wasted three setpoints when leading 6-3.

Becker became increasingly nervous after Adams broke his serve in the sixth game of the first set and started gesturing and shouting to himself in German after almost every mistake.

The second set hardly went more smoothly for Becker. Many games went to deuce and Becker had to dig deep before converting his fourth matchpoint on Adams' serve after two hours 20 minutes.

Becker had to win the match to keep alive his hopes of qualifying for next week's ATP finals.

Becker, who won the season-ending finals in Frankfurt last year, is one of three players in Antwerp who can still qualify for the finals.

The others, Croat Goran Ivanisevic and Frenchman Cedric Pioline — seeded fifth and fourth respectively — clash in the quarterfinals.

In-form Ivanisevic, who won the Paris Open last week, stayed on course for the ATP finals by breezing past Belgian Johan Van Herck.

In a match between two wild card entries, Ivanisevic's main problem was sealing the tie, which he did with an ace on his fifth match point to prevail 6-3, 6-3.

Pioline knocked out German Marc Goellner 6-3, 7-6 after saving two setpoints in the tie-breaker.

"He's a dangerous player. He's got a big serve and a big forehand. If you go into a third set, you never know what might happen," said Pioline, ranked 11th in the world.

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Constitution does not call for change of cabinet after polls — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Friday said the decision on the change or reshuffle of government, following the Parliamentary elections held on Nov. 8, rests with His Majesty King Hussein, saying that neither the National Charter nor the Constitution stipulates that the government should resign after elections.

In an interview with the London-based Middle East Television Centre, Dr. Majali said once the Parliament convenes, and a speaker is elected, the government will ask the House for a vote of confidence. If it wins, then it will go ahead with its responsibilities, but if it doesn't secure the vote of confidence then it has to resign, allowing for a new government to be formed.

Dr. Majali said elections were held as scheduled because the King wanted them to be held on time.

The King has taken the decision not to put off the polls after consulting with the government, he said. The request to postpone elections was made by some political parties which thought that the post 1967 Palestinian displaced persons might opt to go back home following the signature

in Washington last September of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

Dr. Majali said democracy "is not new to Jordan. It has started long time ago and not just four years ago or upon the formation of political parties, as some might think."

"Parties have always been allowed, provided that they act in accordance with the laws in force in Jordan. He pointed out that the reason for not licensing political parties before the enactment of political parties law was that parties were loyal to alien powers and were receiving financial support from abroad, and were targeting the regime."

He said that the adoption of the National Charter and the enactment of the political parties law have organised the formation of such parties. The law stipulates that parties should have loyalty to Jordan and does not receive any financial support from abroad, he said. He said that if it is established that a certain party is receiving support from abroad, the necessary legal measures will be taken against it.

Commenting on the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of Principles, Dr. Majali said the most

important thing in it is that it ensured the recognition by Israel and the West of the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dr. Majali added that negotiations with Israel should be based on the agenda the two countries have signed.

On Jordan's relations with Arab countries, Dr. Majali said those relations have always been "good," saying that Jordan has always sought to achieve Arab solidarity. "Jordan's stand during the Gulf crisis was clear, but it was misread by some Arab brethren, and by the West in particular," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership, government and people have always been against occupation, and that they have sought an inter-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. "But Jordan's position was misunderstood," he said.

Dr. Majali said Jordan has extended its hands to Arab Gulf countries "with all honesty" and has received encouraging responses from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He voiced hope that relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will also improve.

Bosnian army attacks UNPROFOR headquarters

SARAJEVO (K) — Muslim gunners attacked the United Nations headquarters town of Kiseljak Friday in a new thrust against their Croat foes in central Bosnia.

Five people were reported dead in an artillery barrage on the Croat stronghold 30 kilometres west of Sarajevo, where Croatian and Bosnian government representatives were discussing ways to stem the fighting.

The Bosnian Croat news agency Habena said the military hospital in Kiseljak appealed for blood supplies as the town rocked under a concerted attack by the 3rd and 6th corps of the Muslim-led Bosnian army.

Kiseljak is the headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and was chosen because it has been relatively unscathed by the 19-month civil war.

The U.N. base was not endangered by the latest shelling

but a mortar exploded 100 metres from it on Thursday.

Captain Nils Pedersen said by telephone that shelling by both sides could be heard to the north of the base and that a large number of tanks belonging to the Croat Defence Council (HVO) had been seen on the move.

He was unable to confirm Habena's casualty toll.

Habena said the Bosnian Croat villages of Otocica, Pobrede and Brestovsko were also attacked.

The Muslims pressed their offensive although a member of Bosnia's collective presidency said on Thursday that attacks on Croat enclaves in central Bosnia would stop as "an expression of our concern for the population and the good will of our army."

The ceasefire was supposed to coincide with peace talks on Friday in Sarajevo between Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

Muslims and Croats, allied against Serbs earlier in the conflict, are fighting bitterly for territory in central Bosnia where a string of Croat towns have been overrun recently.

UNPROFOR spokesman Idesbald van Biesebroeck said the attack on Kiseljak began in earnest on Thursday when fighting turned the bustling trade centre into a ghost town.

Civilians, who have become used to a comparatively normal existence as war raged round them, took to underground shelters.

Mr. Biesebroeck told reporters the HVO had launched an offensive on Thursday against the Muslims between Fojnica and Bakovici west of Kiseljak.

"The situation is very tense in this area," he added. Thirty Croat mortar rounds exploded within 50 metres of a Muslim hospital for mental patients and seriously injured casualties at Bakovici.

Crown Prince urges PLO to cooperate

(Continued from page 1)

among the faithful, the descendants of Abraham, so that peace can prevail among them and in the whole region," he added.

Commenting on the Parliamentary elections held Monday, the King said he was totally satisfied with the results. "Jordanians of various origins and roots took part in the elections and they did not let me down," he added.

On whether the elections represented vote on the peace process, the King said that the peace process started under the previous Parliament and a national congress had endorsed Jordan's decision to participate in the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

"Therefore, the new Parliament and the government are bound to participate in drawing up the course of action for the coming stage, noting that the elections represented a new step towards democracy."

said King Hussein.

On the participation in the general elections by Jordanians of Palestinian origin, and the impact of that on the demands for the fulfilment of Palestinian refugees and displaced peoples' right of return or compensation, the King said that that participation in the elections does not weaken the Palestinians' rights to return or to demand compensation.

"We were bound to hold the elections in order to continue building the foundations of democracy while the Palestinians, whether present in Jordan or elsewhere, will continue to have the right to demand their rights," added King Hussein.

Describing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as unique, King Hussein said the relationship was influenced by attempts to portray Jordan's supportive stand of the Palestinians and their rights on their national soil as "Jordanian ambitions."

By signing the Israeli-

Jordanian agenda, the King said, Jordan had aimed at helping the Palestinians to attain their rights as well as dealing with Jordanian issues.

On the future Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, the King said this would be left for the people to decide in their own free will and therefore any talk about a deal now would be premature and could lead to a situation resembling previous experiments in the Arab World that ended in failure.

Stressing that Jordan would continue to support the Palestinians, King Hussein said that the Kingdom has shouldered heavy responsibilities since the 1967 war.

He also noted that in his meetings with the Egyptian leadership following the 1967 war, Jordan and Egypt agreed to do whatever was to be done to regain control of the occupied Palestinian land. He said that Egypt and Jordan then agreed that there should be no separate peace agreements with Israel.

Israel demands PLO condemn killing of settler

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel demanded Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) publicly condemn the killing of a Jewish settler by five members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction who contended they acted without the group's knowledge.

The army's announcement of the Fatah link — even if indirect — to the Sept. 29 killing of Haim Mizrahi was a political blow to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on an official visit to the United States.

He has repeatedly cited Fatah's adherence to a pledge not to attack Israelis as proof PLO Chairman Arafat is a peace partner who can be trusted.

Lifting censorship of news of the detentions, the army said Mr. Rabin ordered Israeli negotiators at autonomy talks with the PLO to express Israel's severe displeasure over the killing.

"I am stunned by this news," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. "There is no forgiving this... the one thing the PLO needs to do is to come out now with the strongest possible condemnation — otherwise we have a problem."

The army said the men, whom it identified as Fatah members, contended under interrogation they had acted on their own initiative when they stabbed and kidnapped Mizrahi as he was buying eggs in an Arab village in the occupied West Bank.

"It was made clear (to senior PLO delegate Nabil Shaath) that this act cannot be tolerated from our standpoint and requires a public condemnation from the highest relevant levels of the PLO, along with steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence," the army said in a statement.

The army had originally blamed the killing on the militant fundamentalist Hamas group, which had claimed responsibility.

One of the detainees, the army said, suffered a brain haemorrhage while in custody and the circumstances were being investigated. Palestinian sources said he was beaten during interrogation.

In the statement, the army said the Shin Bet secret police and the military had recently uncovered the alleged guerrilla cell in the Ramallah area, north of Jerusalem.

Military censors barred pub-

lication of the arrests and investigation for several days.

The right-wing opposition demanded the autonomy agreement now be torn up.

Rafael Eitan, head of the far-right Tsomet Party, called for Mr. Rabin's immediate return from the United States.

"Rabin deliberately lied to us when he told us that Hamas carried out this attack," charged Uri Ariel, general secretary of the settler's council. Mr. Rabin met a delegation of settlers on Wednesday in a bid to calm protests.

"The negotiations must be stopped," Mr. Ariel said. National Religious Party leader Ze'evulun Hammer said: "Rabin's lies have been exposed. He claimed he was negotiating with sheep but he's dancing with wolves."

Delegation chief General Amnon Shahak had voiced during autonomy talks with the PLO "Israel's displeasure, particularly since the killing was committed by Fatah people, violating the commitment of the PLO head to stop acts of terrorism by his organisation," a spokesman said.

General Shahak explained clearly... that Israel will not tolerate such acts.

"This murder demands a public condemnation from the highest PLO officials who must give a pledge that such acts will not be repeated," the statement said.

The five, caught near Ramallah "several days ago," had confessed to the killing which took place without Fatah leaders being informed, according to the spokesman.

"They acted on their own initiative and without orders," he said in a statement.

The PLO ordered Fatah militants to halt all attacks on Israelis following the autonomy deal.

The PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators," Mr. Arafat wrote in a letter to Mr. Rabin on Sept. 9.

One of the five captured men, who all lived near Ramallah, had led soldiers to an arms cache on the West Bank where Mizrahi's own gun had been hidden, the spokesman said.

Two worked on the poultry farm from where Mizrahi was kidnapped.



A crying Palestinian boy tries to make his way through Israeli border guards closing Jerusalem Old City's Damascus Gate after the stabbing of an Israeli soldier by a Palestinian youth (AFP photo)

One of the five, who made up an armed Fatah cell but were not named, had been hospitalised with a head injury.

An inquiry was underway into the circumstances, the spokesman added.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which opposes the autonomy agreement, claimed responsibility for the killing.

Meanwhile soldiers arrested Friday four members of the Hawks, Fatah's armed wing on the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. They were caught after a shootout at Bureij refugee camp.

Israel, PLO bound by Dec. 13 deadline — Shahal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel will have to abide by the Dec. 13 deadline for the start of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Friday.

"There is no choice but to abide by the schedules," Mr. Shahal told the Jerusalem Post newspaper.

The Sept. 13 autonomy agreement does not grant either Israel or the PLO the right to delay, he said. "The accord is not built to allow the possibility of saying... wait a minute, we're stopping."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the Israeli negotiators to meet the deadline before he left overnight Wednesday for a 10-trip to the United States, according to Mr. Shahal.

The army had removed a dozen of the 50 Hawks from its wanted list two weeks ago.

Also Friday a teenage Muslim fundamentalist plunged a knife into an Israeli building contractor at the Erez crossing into Gaza, police said.

Police caught the 18-year-old, who sought revenge for the shooting dead of his friend at the same spot on Oct. 31, but only lightly wounded his victim.

Soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian trying to get out from the Gaza Strip through the Nahal Oz crossing, military officials said.

However, Mr. Rabin himself has previously warned that the deadline will be broken and other Israeli officials have suggested more time will be needed.

The talks have stumbled over Israel's proposal to maintain troops on the Gaza Strip to protect the 4,000 Jewish settlers there. The Palestinians want a minimal presence, although the accord stipulates that Israel is responsible for the security of settlers.

Under their declaration of principles, the two sides are to reach an interim agreement by Dec. 13 on the withdrawal and handover of power for education, health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism.

Withdrawal is to be completed within four months and elections to an autonomy body follow in July.

Islamist, leftist deputies likely to form 'vocal' bloc

(Continued from page 1)

Democratic Party (JDPD) fielded six candidates. The JDPD, Bassam Haddadin, won a seat in Zarqa.

"Opponents of the peace process have been ousted with the help of the one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law and now the way is clear for the government to sign a peace agreement with Israel with parliamentary approval," said the JDPD spokesman on condition of anonymity.

While the spokesman for the leftist party conceded that "there will be some opposition from non-party deputies on in-

ternal issues, these will be of minor political importance and will not upset the government priorities: the peace process and the implementation of the economic adjustment programme."

Not only political observers and commentators were sceptical of the 12th Parliament's ability to oppose government policies on major issues, however.

"The voices of opposition in this Parliament will be much less and may contribute to a lack of creative dialogue," says Dr. Arwa Al Ameri, who heads the Independent Centre for Women's Studies.

"There are not only less

members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament but many very progressive voices that created dialogue in Parliament, have lost," says Dr. Ameri.

"To have large numbers of deputies of the same political trend (traditionalists) in the Lowest House may lead to mediocrity because they will not be able to challenge government proposals and policies. Their numbers are large enough to enable the government to pass any amendment or law without much opposition."

Such a situation, says Dr. Ameri may "lack the enriching process of dialogue that ulti-

mately leads to improvement." Dissent, says Dr. Ameri, "is not a luxury, it is a necessity for constant improvement and thought."

The one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law forced Jordanians to "fall back on traditions of tribal politics which are not conducive to democratic development where people vote on issues and policies regardless of clan, sectarian or regional affiliations," Dr. Ameri said.

The performance of the critical forces in Parliament remains to be seen but the ability of the existing bloc of 30 to create a lively dialogue is almost certain.

Polls results in 3rd district

(Continued from page 1)

that of the Jordanians and Islamists.

Jordanians of Palestinian origin, in reaction to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the conflicting official reports about whether Jordanians of Palestinian origin can vote here or not, also wanted to ensure that their representative is in Parliament and part of the legislative process which will affect their future.

Their votes, in their majority, went to Mr. Masri.

Mr. Nabulsi, in the final analysis, only received the votes of those who still believed that democratic ideals and good performance in Parliament stood above purely nationalistic concerns. They, however, only numbered about half of the total number of votes that either Mr. Abu Ragheb or Mr. Masri gained.

A large measure of the votes Mr. Nabulsi, at first glance, would have had in these elections, were those of the Christians and leftists. But a closer look at the map of candidates who were contesting the Christian and Circassian seats suggested that

Mr. Nabulsi could lose to either of the women candidates for the Circassian seat, or to one of the leftists contesting the Christian seat.

Analysts believe that the race for the Christian seat in the Third District was obviously affected by the parallel struggle witnessed over the Muslim seats, Khalil Haddadin, who had the largest politically-committed base won, even though he only secured around 1,600 votes.

The main contestants for this seat, originally, were Mr. Haddadin, who represented the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Mr. Ya'qoub Zayyadin, the Jordan Communist Party and Mr. Fakhri Kawa, an independent leftist. The almost similar orientation of the three candidates made it difficult for the non-committed leftists to cast their votes in favour of one candidate, therefore dividing the vote among the three and a fourth candidate — Suhail Sharaiha — who was not a close competitor but nevertheless took a share of the leftist vote.

Mr. Kawa would have needed the support of his allies in 1989, the Islamists, who were not willing to take

chances with their votes and opted to give full support to Mr. Keilani.

The race, therefore, remained between the two candidates with sizeable political party support. Mr. Haddadin's chances only improved after Mr. Walid Abdul Hadi, who initially contested the Muslim seat, withdrew from the race. Mr. Abdul Hadi, who was also a pan-Arabist, had a solid 1,000 vote support from his party, many of these votes went to Mr. Haddadin, giving him the necessary edge to win the seat.

Circassian candidate Mansour Murad, who in 1989 secured 8,747 votes with the support of "Palestinian" and leftist voters, this time lost both blocs, with the Palestinian votes favouring Mr. Masri and the leftist votes going to different Christian candidates. His alliance with the Islamists in the 11th Parliament did not pay off as expected because of the struggle over the Islamist seat.

The obvious winner from these interconnected forces in the Third District was Toujan Faisal, who will now enter history books as the first

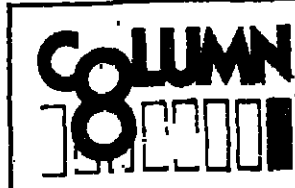
female deputy in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament.

Ms. Faisal, whose campaign picked up only in the last week of electioneering, collected all the disgruntled votes left over from the race for the three Muslim seats as well as support from voters who wanted a woman to reach Parliament.

Her biggest support came from a good number of Christian voters who had already decided that they wanted to influence the choice of Muslim deputies representing this district.

Mr. Nabulsi had won large support among liberals and Christians after he led a campaign, in the 11th Parliament, against a proposal by Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc to segregate public and private schools. He also enjoyed the support of prominent Christian personalities and church leaders who campaigned for Mr. Nabulsi as early as 1989.

Most of the liberals and Christians shifted support to Ms. Faisal, who was campaigning courageously against Islamic fundamentalism.



6 honoured for contributions to press freedom

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. media mogul Ted Turner and five foreign journalists were honoured by the Committee to Protect Journalists in recognition of their contributions to press freedom. Turner, the founder of Cable News Network, won the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for CNN's revolutionary impact on what Turner calls the "democratisation of information." A Press Freedom Award also went to Long Doan, the son of imprisoned Vietnamese journalist Doan Viet Hoat. The elder Doan has been held in a detention camp for three years because he edited a newsletter that published a variety of viewpoints.

The other award winners were recognised for "providing independent news coverage and commentary despite arrest physical attack and threats to themselves and their families." The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a statement.

They are: Veran Matic, editor-in-chief of Radio B92, a news and music station in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia; Omar Belhouche, editor of El Watan in Algeria. Belhouche was recently sentenced to a year in jail for an article that questioned the government's handling of a terrorist bombing.

He is free on appeal; Ricardo Uceda, editor of Si magazine in Peru. Si recently uncovered evidence of military involvement in two massacres of civilians, and Nosa Igbebor, editor of Tell magazine in Nigeria. Government forces have attacked Tell, arrested Igbebor and other editors and confiscated thousands of copies of the magazine.

Pope leaves hospital after hurting shoulder

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul returned to the Vatican Friday after spending a night in hospital for a dislocated shoulder. The 73-year-old Pontiff walked out of Rome's Policlinico Gemelli private hospital at 0921 GMT and stepped into a limousine that drove him to the Vatican. The Pope injured his shoulder when he tripped on the hem of his white robe and fell during a Vatican audience Thursday. A Vatican statement Thursday said doctors gave the Pope a general anaesthetic before doctors reset his dislocated right shoulder. He was kept in hospital overnight for observation. The Pope tripped and fell as he descended three steps from the Papal throne after addressing delegates of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Reports of Queen Mum's death greatly exaggerated

SYDNEY (AFP) — Embarrassed Australian broadcasting stations were forced Friday to quickly retract "unconfirmed" reports of the death of Britain's queen mother after discovering she was very much alive. The reports, which sparked rumours prompting an official denial by Governor General Bill Hayden, were carried on 11 a.m. (0200 GMT) news bulletins by Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) Radio, 2UE Radio and the Channel Seven Television Station. A spokesman for Channel Seven said the reports stemmed from a dummy run by Britain's Sky Television station, which had apparently been doing a routine check of an obituary item on the queen mother. The spokesman said it seemed the footage had been seen by an employee of Sky who assumed it was going to air and rang a contact at a radio station in Australia, as a result of which it was broadcast by 2UE. Channel Seven acknowledged the error and apologised shortly after its bulletin started, admitting it had erred in basing its report solely on a 2UE news report. A 2UE spokesman said they also had been "let down" by one of their affiliate stations which had alerted them to the "news tip." A statement by ABC Radio said it had broadcast the report as being "unconfirmed," but the story had been quickly withdrawn and a correction broadcast. "Running the story was an error of judgement," it said. "Steps have been taken to ensure such a lapse is not repeated."